

भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि उन राज्य सरकारों के नाम क्या हैं और इस सम्बन्ध में सरकार की प्रतिक्रिया क्या है ?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: So far as the development cess is concerned, the hon. Member is aware of the objectives for which this cess was contemplated, but it has not fulfilled its objective. The basic objective was to develop the infrastructure in the public sector area, but unfortunately, I do not want to pass the blame or responsibility to anybody, practically this cess has formed part of the general revenue of the State Governments and the amount which they realised in the form of development cess is quite inadequate to build up any worthwhile infrastructure in that area. Therefore, when a public sector unit is established, the necessary infrastructure for roads, water connection, transport, railways, housing drainage, educational facilities etc. are being built up by the public sector unit itself. Particularly, NDMC and all these public sector organizations are doing this job. That is why we thought it is of no use in pursuing this policy. Ultimately if the amount for which it was levied is not spent for that purpose, there is no need of pursuing it. Some of the State Governments have already done, for instance Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal, they have levied development cess. Similarly, certain other States, for instance, Gujrat, Punjab, Haryana and Meghalaya have no desire to impose this development cess. Of course, there are not much minerals in Punjab and Haryana; Gujarat has some minerals and in Meghalaya there is dolomite. They do not want to impose this development cess.

श्री कूलचन्द्र वर्मा : स्टेटमेंट की लास्ट लाइन की ओर मैं आपका ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूँ। इस में आप ने कहा है कि कुछ राज्य सरकारों द्वारा अभी भी यह विवाद उठाया जा रहा है और इस पर विचार किया जा रहा है। इससे पहले समिति की सिफारिश के अनुसार सरकार

ने यह निश्चय किया था कि इस उपकर को लगाने के प्रस्ताव पर अमल न किया जाए। इसके बावजूद भी कुछ राज्य सरकारें लगाना चाहती हैं। मैं स्पेसिफिक प्रश्न पूछना चाहता हूँ। इस कर को लगाने के पीछे उनकी भावना क्या है, कारण क्या है? क्या यह सही नहीं है कि खानों के अन्दर काम करने वाले जो श्रमिक हैं और उनको जो इससे लाभ मिलने वाला था, जैसे बिजली का, पानी का, सड़कों का उस सब की जवाबदेही से बचने के लिए सरकार ने इस समिति की सिफारिश को मानने से इन्कार किया है ?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: The hon. Member put the question why in 1975 we decided not to pursue with the State Governments to impose the development cess. What prompted Government to come to this conclusion, I explained in the statement as also in answer to the supplementary question. After that, certain State Governments have made some fresh suggestions and should we say that we are not going to consider that. That is why in the last part, I have said that after 1975, decision, certain State Governments have made representation and that is under consideration of the Government and there is nothing contrary in that.

National Savings Scheme

*490. **SHRI A. NEELALOHITHA-DASAN:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are having any proposal to make the National Savings Scheme more attractive in respect of Foreign Exchange; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) and (b). Certain proposals have been received from the Government of Gujarat and Gandhidham Chamber of Commerce and Industry in November, 1980

suggesting that interest earned by Non-resident Indians on investments in Small Savings Securities may be wholly free of income tax. The suggestions are under examination.

SHRI A. NEELALOHITHADASAN: What is the attitude of the Government in this respect? Will the Government take a favourable decision and when will they do this?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: Examination includes favourable as well as unfavourable considerations. The final decision will, of course, be taken.

SHRI A. NEELALOHITHADASAN: What is the present state of affairs and condition regarding investment in small savings by non-resident Indians?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: At the moment, if non-resident Indians invest in national savings certificates etc., they will have to invest like any other national subject to the same conditions. There are tax-free securities and tax-bearing securities. If they invest in tax-free securities, it will be free from incometax and if they do it in tax-bearing securities, they will have to pay the income-tax like any other Indian national.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: At present, the main difficulty for the Indians abroad is that they are not able to deposit in national savings in foreign currency. If an Indian abroad wants to deposit in national savings, he has to send the money here and his relative here has to deposit. Actually, the Indians abroad are not depositing anything at all in the national savings. The commercial and the nationalised banks have non-resident accounts and the Indians abroad can easily deposit in these commercial and other banks, but there is a difference between the money coming to the national savings and the money going to these banks, because the money coming to the national savings is utilised for developmental purposes. Will the hon. Minister examine how the Indians abroad can deposit money in the national savings in foreign currency by staying

there itself? Have the Government examined this aspect?

Secondly, I am given to understand that this aspect was examined by the Government in Kerala in 1978-79 and a concrete proposal was submitted to the Government of India. Has that proposal been examined? If so, what is the action that was taken on that?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: Answering the second question first, this was examined earlier in 1977 and it was rejected. But I said, I will have it re-examined, and consider this question of allowing Indian nationals settled abroad and non-residents to invest in the national savings certificates again. The question here is whether they should get a preference over the Indian nationals themselves. What the non-resident Indians and the Indians settled abroad want is that their investments in national saving certificates should be exempted from incometax. This is a thing which I will have to very carefully examine and I cannot commit myself.

As far the non-residents accounts in banks are concerned, they are allowed to bring the non-resident accounts in the various commercial banks and they are not taxed for incometax on the principle that instead of keeping their savings and their non-resident accounts in dollars and sterlings abroad, they are allowed to keep it here, but it is repatriable at any moment. If they keep it abroad, we will not impose any tax, and we are not imposing any tax if they keep it here.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: The hon. Minister admitted in the budget speech that there is black money in our country. May I know if the Government has thought of any saving scheme whereby the black money could be attracted for public benefit.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): There are two opinions whether black money should be beaten or attracted and I have not yet decided what to do.