

**Issue of show-cause notices to M/s. Bisleri (India) Private Ltd., Bombay for alleged violation of FERA**

\*78 SHRI SANJAY GANDHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state,

(a) whether show-cause notices have been issued to M/s. Bisleri (India) Private Limited, Bombay and its Directors for violation of the provisions of section 4(3) and section 5(1)(f) of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1974;

(b) if so, what action has been taken to prosecute the Directors of the Company; and

(c) if no action has been taken, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI R. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Consequent upon searches conducted at the premises of M/s. Bisleri (India) Pvt. Ltd., Bombay and some other connected premises on 15-11-1977, the Enforcement Directorate initiated investigations against the said company and its Directors under the provisions of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 and as a result of which the following Show Cause Notices were issued:

(i) On 2-3-1978 to M/s. Bisleri (India) Pvt. Ltd., Bombay and its Directors, S/Shri Ramesh J. Chauhan and H. M. Golwala for having utilised in September, 1971 foreign exchange amounting to £14,336 for purpose other than the one for which it was acquired—violation of Section 4(3) of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947.

(ii) To Shri Ramesh J. Chauhan on 14-4-78 for acknowledging a debt of Rs. 2 lakhs in August, 1970 thereby creating a contingent right in favour of Dr. C. Rossi to receive a payment—violation of Section 5(1)(f) of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947.

(iii) To Smt. Meenaxi Jasdanwala on 15-12-77 for acquiring foreign exchange in May/June, 1977 amounting to U.A.E. Dirhams 500 without the permission of the Reserve Bank of

India in violation of section 8(1) of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973.

These cases have been adjudicated on 25-9-78 and 20-10-1978 by the Additional Director of Enforcement as a result of which penalty of Rs. 1,50,000 has been imposed on the company and Rs. 15,000 each on its Directors S/Shri Ramesh J. Chauhan and H. M. Golwala, in case of Show Cause Notice at (i) above. The charge against Shri Ramesh J. Chauhan was dropped, in case of Show Cause Notice (ii) above. Smt. Meenaxi Jasdanwala died in an air crash on 1-1-78 and, therefore, proceedings against her abated.

(b) In respect of offences committed prior to 1.1.1974, under the provisions of Section 23D of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947 if the Director of Enforcement comes to the opinion that having regard to the circumstances of the case the penalty which he is empowered to impose would not be adequate, he shall, instead of imposing any penalty himself, make a complaint in writing to the Court. Since these cases have already been adjudicated Departmentally, there is no provision in the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947 to launch prosecution.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to parts (a) and (b) of the question.

**Aerodrome for Surat**

\*79. SHRI AHMED M. PATIL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct an aerodrome at Surat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government are aware of the increasing demand for having an aerodrome at Surat for the benefit of the people of that region?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): (a) A State Government airstrip already exists there.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.