

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: What is the allocation for Tamil Nadu as a whole this year and what was the allocation last year?

SHRI K. C. PANT: For Tamil Nadu as a whole approved outlay for power for 1974-75 was Rs. 29.5 crores and for 1975-76 the figure is Rs. 47 crores, an increase of Rs. 17.5 crores or 59.3 per cent.

मंत्रियों की चल और अचल सम्पत्ति का विवरण

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* 506. श्री आर० बी बड़े :

श्री नरेन्द्र सिंह :

क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या सभी केन्द्रीय मंत्रियों ने प्रथम शपथ-ग्रहण से पूर्व अपनी और अपने परिवार के व्यक्तियों की सम्पूर्ण चल और अचल सम्पत्ति का विवरण उनको दे दिया था और

(ख) उन मंत्रियों के नाम क्या हैं, जिनकी अपनी और अपने परिवार के सदस्यों की चल व अचल सम्पत्ति में उनके प्रथम शपथ-ग्रहण के बाद अब तक अन्तर आया है ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI OM MEHTA): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b). Under the Code of Conduct, Union Ministers are to submit to the Prime Minister at the time of assuming office and annually thereafter a statement of their and their family members' assets and liabilities. Members of the present Council of Ministers have submitted such statements when the Code came into being

or on their first assumption of office as the case may be, except one Deputy Minister who did not submit the statement on first assumption of office in 1967 but did so from 1969-70 onwards. These statements which are of a private and personal nature, are furnished in confidence for the Prime Ministers' information and it has not been the practice to disclose their details in the past. However, the question of making public the assets and liabilities of Ministers is under consideration. But pending a decision on this question, it would not be appropriate to disclose details of the statements such as variations in assets of Ministers after their assumption of office.

SHRI R. V. BADE: The statement is not complete. Part (b) of the question reads:

"the names of those Ministers whose movable and immovable property and that of the members of their families have varied since their first oath taking till date;"

This has not been answered.

श्री मधु लिमये : अध्यक्ष महोदय, में आप का ध्यान डायरेक्शन 13 ए की और खीचना चाहता हूँ जो इस प्रकार है :

"Answers to questions given in the House shall be complete and, as far as possible, each part thereof shall be answered separately.

If, on his attention being drawn to an answer, the Speaker is satisfied that it does not fulfil this condition, he may direct the Minister to give a complete answer

इस में पब्लिक इन्स्ट्रस्ट का कोई सवाल नहीं है। मंत्री महोदय ने पब्लिक इन्स्ट्रस्ट का प्ली नहीं लिया है। उन्होंने कहा है — इट बुड नाट एप्रोप्रिस्ट

SHRI OM MEHTA: We have said that a statement is laid on the Table of the House. If he wants, I can read the statement.

श्री मधु लिमये : मैं डायरेक्शन 13 ए के अन्तर्गत स्पीकर का रूलिंग चाहता हूँ।

SHRI R. V. BADE: Part (b) of my question is:

"the names of those Ministers whose movable and immovable property and that of the members of their families have varied since their first oath taking till date".

That information has not been given.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : माननीय सदस्य अपना प्रश्न करें।

श्री आर० बी० बड़े : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि मिनिस्टर्स ने जो स्टेटमेंट दिये हैं, क्या उन का कोई वेरिफिकेशन हुआ है।

SHRI OM MEHTA: No, Sir. Whatever statements have been given are of a private and personal nature, furnished in confidence for the information of the Prime Minister. It has not been the practice to disclose their details in the past/. . (Interruptions).

श्री आर० बी० बड़े : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैंने यह पूछा है कि मिनिस्टर्स ने जो स्टेटमेंट दिये हैं, क्या प्राइम मिनिस्टर ने उन का वेरिफिकेशन किया है।

SHRI OM MEHTA: These are verified and the clarifications are sought whenever it is deemed necessary.

श्री आर० बी० बड़े : स्टेटमेंट में कहा गया है कि सब मंत्री प्राइम मिनिस्टर को अपनी सम्पत्ति का स्टेटमेंट देगे प्राइम मिनिस्टर अपनी सम्पत्ति का स्टेटमेंट किस को देगे, इस का खुलासा नहीं है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि प्राइम मिनिस्टर अपना स्टेटमेंट किस को देगे। या वह पब्लिक को देगे ?

SHRI OM MEHTA: The statement of assets and liabilities of the Prime Minister is placed on record.

श्री आर० बी० बड़े : स्टेटमेंट में कहा गया है।

"Pending a decision on this question, it will not be appropriate to disclose the details. . ."

इस बात को पांच साल हो गये हैं, लेकिन अभी तक इस बारे में डिसिजन नहीं हुआ है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह डिसिजन कब होने वाला है। क्या प्राइम मिनिस्टर की यह इच्छा नहीं है कि जनता में जो भ्रम प्रसार के संग्रह उत्पन्न हो रहे हैं, उनको दूर किया जाये ? इसलिये इस बारे में डिसिजन क्यों नहीं लिया जाता है ?

SHRI OM MEHTA: We have written to the Chief Ministers and the matter is under consideration. As soon as the replies from the Chief Ministers come, we will take a final decision.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: In the statement that has been laid on the Table of the House, it has been stated:

"However, the question of making public the assets and liabilities of the Ministers is under consideration."

May I in that context ask the hon. Prime Minister who is present here as to since when the matter is under consideration and how soon they propose to finalise it?

SHRI OM MEHTA: I have already replied to it. Nothing can be said at this stage.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Since when it is under consideration, since what date it is under consideration, and soon they propose to finalise it?

SHRI OM MEHTA: Unless a final decision is taken, nothing can be said.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I ask: Since when it is under consideration?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS, MINISTER OF SPACE, MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): The matter is under consideration for some time. The matter was taken up in the Cabinet and it was discussed. I do not remember the date of the meeting.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: If she cannot give date, I want to know for how many years it is under consideration. She is trying to hide the things. I want to know as to for how many years it is under consideration.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: It is about a month.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: May I know from the Government, when there were Governments of other parties in some States of the country, in West Bengal, etc., whether the assets were made public by the Ministers in those Governments? I want to know whether any such information is in the knowledge of the Government.

SHRI OM MEHTA: I want notice for this.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: What is the notice that he wants? Do you have any information about their assets? If you do not have, you say, you do not have.

SHRI OM MEHTA: We do not have any information.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Did they file the returns?

SHRI OM MEHTA: We do not have any information.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: In view of the allegations of corruption, which are being made day-in and day-out throughout the country

by various people, against Ministers, particularly of the Centre, and in view of the fact that these allegations, if they go unrefuted, will only lend further credence in the public mind, I would like to know from the Government whether they consider it desirable or not that public statements should be made on this question of assets and liabilities; if they think that it is undesirable, they should say so; and if they think that it is desirable.... (*interruptions*)

Two wrongs do not make a right. . .

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Apply the principle to all equally.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: I fully agree. What I am saying is this. Since the problem of corruption has, in the public mind, assumed very big dimensions in the recent couple of years or so, does Government consider it desirable or not that these things should be put before the public—the question of assets and liabilities of the Ministers—and if they consider it desirable, what is the difficulty which is holding up the consideration and the decision so long?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: As I have said, there is no difficulty as such. But until a decision is taken, I do not think it would be proper to give advice. One of the problems is this. Normally, I would say that this is a desirable thing to do, but we know how these things are used by some hon. members of the Opposition. Just now Mr. Jyotirmoy Basu raised the question of an amount of money that was transferred from my father's account to my account in London from his royalty account. There was nothing irregular in it. It was done according to prevalent rules and all concerned such as Reserve Bank etc. knew about it. But some members of the opposition use information in such a manner as to cause harassment and twist facts to create a false image. We have got to consider this aspect. (*Interruptions*)

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : अध्यक्ष जी, जो वक्तव्य दिया गया है उस में सरकार की ओर से कहा गया है कि ये विवरण जो निजी तथा वैयक्तिक स्वरूप के हैं प्रधान मंत्री जी कि सूचना के लिये गौपनीय ढंग से दिये जाते हैं, पहले इस तरह के बारे में देने की प्रथा नहीं थी। मेरा निवेदन है कि यह उत्तर गलत है। मेरे पास 1 दिसम्बर 1971 को सरकार द्वारा दिये गये एक सवाल का जवाब है। सावल राव वीरेन्द्र सिंह का था—

“Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state the names and number of the Central Government Ministers who own houses and plots in Delhi in their own name or in the names of their family members/relatives; the number of plots/buildings held by them in each case individually; and the estimated cost of lands and buildings held by them or in the names of their family members/relatives.”

श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी ने जवाब दिया—

“A statement containing the required information is attached.”

और यह पूरी इन्फार्मेशन मेरे पास मौजूद है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय क्या मकान और जमीन एसेट्स का हिस्सा नहीं हैं? 1971 में उस के बारे में सदन को जानकारी दी जा सकती थी, लेकिन 1975 में जानकारी देने में इन्कार किया जा रहा है। यह फैसला कब किया गया कि जो जानकारी पहले सदन को दी जा चुकी है, उस से भी अब सदन को बंचित रखा जाय?

श्री श्रीमत् मेहता : ऐसी बात नहीं है। यहां मकान की बात नहीं है अगर एग्जीक्यूटिव लड के बारे में पूछा गया था तो उस का जवाब दिया गया था। अगर किसी एक चीज के लिये पूछा जाय तो जवाब दिया जा सकता है।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, आप इस का फैसला कीजिये।

क्या यह सच है कि पहले सरकार की नीति थी कि जानकारी दी जाय, लेकिन अब नीति बदल गई है और जानकारी देना बन्द कर दिया गया है? यह क्या जवाब है?

श्री श्रीमत् मेहता : कोई नीति नहीं बदली है।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, आप उस समय भी लोक सभा के अध्यक्ष थे....

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं प्रश्न का जवाब देने नहीं बैठा हूँ।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : मैं यह नहीं कह रहा हूँ कि आप जवाब दें.....

MR. SPEAKER: It is for the Minister. He has replied whatever it is.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY: While the Government has stated that the matter of declaring the assets by Ministers in public is under consideration, I would like to know from the Government whether the Government will also make public the assets and liabilities of Members of Parliament, not alone of Ministers.... (Interruptions).

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS rose.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Ministers, the Prime Minister, Chief Ministers, MPs, MLAs all should declare their assets at the time of their taking the oath.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Our Socialist legislators have already declared their properties and liabilities.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: I would like to know from the hon. Minister, while it is a matter of satisfaction that the Government is considering this matter of making the assets public, whether it is a fact that every Minister or a Member of Parliament like every other citizen is expected under the law to file an income-tax return including assets and liabilities.

to the competent authorities and these documents, by changes in the income-tax law, have already been made public and that any one can get a copy of it and that there is no secret about it. I would like to know the legal position.

SHRI OM MEHTA: The hon. Member is right. Anybody can go and get a copy of the return filed

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Under the changed income-tax law, anybody can get it.

SHRI OM MEHTA: I would like to make it clear. It is open to anyone to obtain from the authorities concerned on presenting a written application, a copy of any individual's including any Minister's annual income and wealth returns for scrutiny. It is open to the Income-tax and Wealth-tax authorities to decline to furnish such information if they do not consider it to be in public interest.

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र : यह तो हम ने पूछा ही नहीं है, यह तो इन्होंने अपनी तरफ से कह दिया है। अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह जो जवाब दिया गया है, इस में लिखा है—मम्बरसं आफ दि कौन्सिल आफ मिनिस्टर्स प्रधान मंत्री जी को अपने और अपने परिवार के सम्बन्धियों के खर्च तथा कमाई सब चीजों का ब्यौरा देंगे। कौन्सिल आफ मिनिस्टर्स में प्रधान मंत्री जी भी आती हैं, तो ये किस को हिसाब देंगे? यह बहुत जरूरी सवाल है और जरूरी इस लिये हो जाता है कि ये कौन्सिल आफ मिनिस्टर्स के लोग तब तक सही जवाब नहीं देंगे जब तक प्रधान मंत्री जी बैदाग नहीं होती हैं।

श्री ओम मेहता : जब 1964 में कोड आफ कण्ट्रैक्ट इस सदन की टेबिल पर रखा गया था

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र : उनमें प्रधान मंत्री जी का नाम नहीं था।

श्री ओम मेहता : सन्धारम कमेटी ने जो रिक्वेण्डेशनन्ज दी थीं, उसमें ऐसा नहीं था, लेकिन फिर भी प्रधान मंत्री जी ने

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र : ये अपना ब्यौरा राष्ट्रपति जी को दें, स्पीकर को किसी क. दें।

SHRI OM MEHTA: She has been placing on record her own statement of assets and liabilities along with the statements of her colleagues even though there is no specific provision in the Code on this point concerning the Prime Minister.

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र : इस का मतलब है यह अपनी जमीन-जायदाद का हिसाब भी नहीं देंगे।

Shifting of Office of Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

*507. **SHRI S. M. SIDDAYYA:** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is required, in course of his duties, to maintain free rapport and close association with various Ministries of Central Government, State Ministers and officials visiting Delhi, Members of Parliament, Social Workers and Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe persons and Organisations;

(b) whether the Commissioner has complained about his inability to attend to this part of his duties effectively and efficiently when his office is situated at Ramakrishna Puram, more than 10 k.m. from Central Secretariat complex and Parliament House; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken to shift Commissioner's office to a central place?