LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, December 20, 1974/

Agrahayana 29, 1896 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Ceiling on Gold and Gold Ornaments

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*555. SHRIMATI SAVITRI SHYAM:

SHRI ONKAR LAL BERWA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to fix some ceiling on keeping of Gold and Gold ornaments by an individual or a family;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) when and how it is likely to come into force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). There is a proposal made to Government to impose a ceiling on private possession of gold ornaments and articles. But there are constitutional and administrative difficulties in imposing such a ceiling. The matter is under consideration of Government.

3005 LS—1.

श्रीमती सावित्री श्याम अध्यक्ष महोदय माननीय मंत्री जी ने मेरे प्रश्न का बड़ा साधारणता उत्तर दिया है । उन्होंने इस में यह जरूर बतलाया है कि सरकार के सामने प्रपोजल है लेकिन अपने प्रश्न के (बी) भाग मे मैंने पूछा था कि उस के सैलिएन्ट फीचर्स क्या हैं —इस का उन्होंने उत्तर नही दिया ।. . . .

अध्यक्ष महोदय · आप पूछना क्या चाहती है ?

श्रीमती सावित्री श्याम : मैं अभी प्रश्न पूछती हूं—इस देश के लाकर्स में जो सोना या पैसा पड़ा है जिस का कोई प्रोडक्टिव एम्प्लायमेंट नहीं है कोई डिविडेन्ड नही है—कितना सोना इस देश के प्रति व्यक्ति के पास है और कितना उस मे से स्मग्लड है कितना ब्लैक मार्केट के पैसे से लिया हुआ है कितना सही पैसे का खरीदा हुआ है ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह आप कैसे पूछ रही है कितना है आप ने अपने सवाल मे पूछा है कि सीलिंग लगानी है या नही लगानी है ।

श्रीमती सावित्री श्याम : यह तो हम सभी जानते हैं कि आज चोर बाजारों का पैसा कहा जा रहा है—बड़ी बड़ी बल्डिंग्स में लग रहा है और सरकार से छुपाया जा रहा है—क्या मंत्री जी बतलायेंगे कि ऐसा पैसा कितना हैं

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: The hon. lady member has suggested that some ceiling should be imposed on the ornaments and possession of gold. Already in my reply I have said that a proposal is under the consideration of the Government. But at the same time, there are some

difficulties, both administrative and constitutional in imposing such a ceiling. All these matters are under the examination of the Government. About the quantum of gold, how much of it was purchased by black money, etc., I do not know whether it is quite relevant to this.

श्रीमती सावित्री श्याम जब गोल्ड कन्ट्रोल इस देश मे लागू हुआ था तब उस पर एक सीलिंग रखी गई थी—परिवार के लिये शायद 4000 ग्राम और इंडीविजुअल के लिये 2000 ग्राम इस के बाद जितना हो उस का डिक्लेरेशन करना पडता था—ऐसा प्रावीजन उस कानून मे था। मै जानना चाहती हू कि गोल्ड कन्ट्रोल के बाद भारत के कितने लोगो ने सोने का डिक्लेअरेशन किया और कितनो ने नही किया ? जिन्होंने नही किया उन के विरुद्ध सरकार ने क्या एक्शन लिया

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE. The ceiling in 1966 per family was 4000 grammes per family and 2,000 gm per individual This is not primary gold; this is gold used in ornaments But regarding the actual number of people who have filed returns, for that specific question, I would require notice.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय सरकार के द्वारा समय पर स्वर्ण के बारे मे जो वक्तव्य आता रहता है और पालिसी बनती रहती है उस से लोगो मे भ्रम फैला हुआ है। इस समय सरकार के विचाराधीन जो प्रस्ताव है सरकार उस के बारे मे अन्तिम निर्णय कब तक लेलेगी ? कोई ऐसी पालिसी बने जो स्थायी हो—क्या इस के बारे मे सरकार विचार कर रही है ?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE· There is no question of creating any panic. It has been clearly explained that the proposal came to the Government but there are certain difficulties and in reply to the main question I have already stated that.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय: कब तक अन्तिम निर्णय कर लेंगे, कितने साल लगेंगे—एक साल लगेगा, दो साल लगेगा—कब तक निर्णय होगा ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय. बताइये जी, इन की तसल्ली कीजिये।

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE It is difficult to quantify and say the time.

SHRI R. S. PANDEY: A very important question was put by the hon. lady Member with regard to ceiling on gold. May I know whether Mr. Mohan Dharia once upon a time mooted the idea that per family the ceiling might be 10 tolas and may I know whether the Government has taken steps to impose the ceiling and bring in a Bill in the House?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJee Then Member referred to Shri Mohan Dharia's suggestion I have already said that this question as well as other proposals which he gave were under consideration. There are certain difficulties in implementing that proposal and that is why it is under detailed examination.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): May I add that gold is a very sensitive question, particularly with regard to ladies I am glad that an hon. lady Member has taken a very so-called progressive view but there is a good deal of opposition particularly from the women section with regard to the ceiling... . (*Interruptions*) We have to take note of that before taking any decision in regard to the imposition of ceiling. All these aspects will be taken into consideration before a final decision is taken on this.

SHRI N. K. SANGHI: May I know when the Gold Control Act was first brought in the country only five tolas of gold could be kept and the rest had to be surrendered to the Government? Has that been repealed?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Even now nobody is entitled to keep any quantity of primary gold. That is prohibited, not even five tolas of primary gold. With regard to ornaments my hon. ladies colleague gave the ceiling with regard to declaration. Even then there is no ceiling with regard to possession; beyond a certain ceiling a declaration will have to be made.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: The hon. Minister in his reply to the main question said that the Government had before it a proposal for imposing a ceiling on gold but that in view of practical difficulties they have not been able to move forward with this poposal for a ceiling. I should like to know whether it is not a fact that a number of black money holders are utilising their black money for the purchase of gold and one of the difficulties is that you do not want to embarrass the black money holders and that is why you are not implementing the proposal?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: As far as the possession of gold ornaments is concerned, once we are able to trace them in the form of ornaments or in the form of gold, then they have to explain the source from which they purchased. Therefore, there is no question of any soft corner for smugglers; I do not know from where that soft corner comes, but not from the Government any how. We shall take all the necessary steps for the purpose or dealing with the smugglers either in the form of gold or in other forms of wealth.

श्रीमती सहोदराबाई राय : मंत्री जी ने कहा कि सोने का विरोध महिलाओं ने किया है । तो यह विरोध शहर वाली महिलाओं ने ही किया हो । देहात की महिलाओं ने नहीं क्योंकि उन्हें सोने की ज्यादा जरूरत पड़ती है और वक्त आने पर सोने को भुना कर उन का काम चलता है । इसलिये देहात की महिलाओं के लिये जेवर की अधिक से अधिक छूट होनी चाहिये । इस बारे में आप का क्या कहना है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अच्छा मशविरा दिया आप ने ।

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: We shall take that into consideration.

SHRI MURASOLLI MARAN: The hon. Minister has stated that there was a proposal to bring forward a ceiling on the possession of gold and gold ornaments. Does it mean that you are leaving out diamond and platinum and other precious metals?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : सवाल गोल्ड का है । प्लेटिनम और डायमन्ड के बारे में फिर पूछ लेना ।

वर्ष 1973-74 में वसूल किया गया सम्पदा-शुल्क

*550. श्री विभूति मिश्र : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) वर्ष 1973-74 के दौरान कितनी राशि के सम्पदा शुल्क का निर्धारण किया गया तथा उसमें से कितनी राशि वस्तुतः वसूल की गई ;

(ख) क्या सम्पदा-शुल्क के निर्धारण के मामले में विभिन्न पार्टियां न्यायालयों में अपील कर देती हैं जिसके फलस्वरूप शुल्क की वसूली में विलम्ब होता है ; और

(ग) यदि हां तो तत्सम्बन्धी क्रिया को सरल बनाने के लिए क्या कार्यवाही की जा रही है ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: (a) The Estate Duty demand created during the year 1973-74 was Rs. 11.42 crores. The collection out of current