

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: SOKHI
It has been mentioned in the statement that the scheme shall remain in force only upto 31st March 1979. Why? Secondly, why is it not possible to indicate the extent of higher production?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: As I have already said, the scheme has just come into force. That is why it is not possible to indicate to what extent extra production will be available. Regarding the period upto 1979, while the Finance Minister introduced the scheme in the budget speech, he made it quite clear. We would like to see how the scheme works. If it works well, it can be extended.

SHRI CHAPALENDU BHATTACHARYYA: Will the Government re-examine the imposition of excise duty in those cases where the cost of collection exceeds the actual revenue income?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: It is a hypothetical question. How can I answer it?

Steps to Check Smuggling and Economic Offences

*153. **SHRIMATI SAVITRI SHYAM:**
SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU:

Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are evolving a new scheme in consultation with the State Governments to prevent smuggling and other economic offences; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Although no new scheme as such has been evolved by the Government, arrangements have been made for consultation between senior officers of the Central and State Governments to coordinate the

efforts of the Central and State agencies to check smuggling and other economic offences.

श्रीमती सावित्री श्याम: अध्यक्ष महोदय, मंत्री जी ने मेरे प्रश्न के उत्तर में कुछ विशेष बात नहीं बतायी इसलिये मैं उन से जानना चाहती हूँ कि क्या उनकी नोटिस में इस प्रकार की सूचनायें आयी हैं कि राज्य सरकारें लोकल इंटेलिजेंस और लोकल प्रपोरिटीज की जानकारी पर ऐसे आर्थिक अपराधियों को, स्मगलर्स को छोड़ रही हैं, जब वह रिब्यू करते हैं उन के केसेज हर चौथे महीने, कि जिन को नहीं छोड़ना चाहिये, और कुछ को फंसा भी रही हैं। तो क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार पूरी तरह से राज्य सरकारों पर निर्भर है या उस की अपनी भी प्रलग से कोई मशीनरी है जो उन की यथा स्थिति की जानकारी दे सके ?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: Anti-smuggling operations is the responsibility of the Department of Revenue of the Government of India. We have clear guidelines under the provisions of the COFEPOSA Act. Both the Central and State Governments are the detaining authorities. Whenever any information is received, there is consultation between the various authorities like the Director of Revenue Intelligence, Director of Enforcement, customs intelligence, customs authorities, State Home Ministry and police officials and a joint decision is taken. So far as release is concerned, the State Governments have no authority to release anybody *suo motu*, on their own part. We have issued guidelines and they have to act according to those guidelines. We have received reports that in some cases they have temporarily released some detainees on parole, for which the State Governments have jurisdiction, and they were wrong paroles. This has happened in two or three cases not many. We have drawn the attention of the State Governments to this.

श्रीमती सावित्री श्याम : मेरा दूसरा प्रश्न यह है कि स्मगलिंग विदेशी वस्तुओं की क्रेज पर आधारित है तो इस को स्थाई रूप से रोकने का सरकार क्या उपाय कर रही है ?

MR SPEAKER: Have you got any permanent solution for prevention of smuggling?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: Only yesterday we have a long discussion on the Bill itself.

SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU: The problem of smuggling is so enormous that Government alone cannot tackle the problem. So, peoples' co-operation is necessary.

Therefore, I would like to know from the hon Minister whether Government will consider forming committees of the public and giving certain powers and directions to these committees and enlisting their cooperation?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: I would welcome any suggestions of the hon. Member to create strong public opinion against economic offences including smuggling, but I do not think that the formation of any committee would help in any way.

श्री नरसिंह नारायण पांडे : क्या मंत्री महोदय इस बात पर विचार करने के लिए तैयार हैं कि चूंकि जितनी स्मगलिंग होती है, चाहे वह अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर हो और चाहे देश के भीतर हो, वह बिना सरकारी अधिकारियों के सहयोग के नहीं हो सकती है, इसलिए सरकारी अधिकारियों पर कुछ नियंत्रण रखने के लिए कोई व्यवस्था की जाये, जिस से उन की एकटविटीज की जांच-पड़ताल की जा सके और यह पता लगाया जा सके कि वे लोग किस प्रकार इन कामों में मदद कर रहे हैं ?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: Some cases of involvement and con-

nivance of the officers have come to our notice and yesterday, while replying to the debate, I pointed out that COFEPOSA has been applied not only to the smugglers but to some of the Government officers also. We have taken action such as premature retirement, suspension and dismissal in a number of cases, and I have given the figures in reply to various questions.

Payment of First Instalment of Impounded D.A.

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*157. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN :
SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have paid the first instalment of the impounded dearness allowance under the compulsory deposit scheme to the employees and workers ;

(b) if so, the amount paid so far ; and

(c) the total amount of impounded dearness allowance ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI-MATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) : (a) Repayment of the first instalment of additional dearness allowance deposited by employees and workers under the Additional Emoluments (Compulsory Deposit) Act, 1974 which fell due on 6th July, 1976 has started.

(b) Till 6th August, 1976, an amount of Rs. 13.11 crores has been repaid.

(c) Till 6th August, 1976, the total additional dearness allowance deposits work out to Rs. 1047.34 crores.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN : What is not said by the hon. Minister is more important than what is said by her.

At the time of the enactment, itself a doubt was expressed here that the big companies might not deposit the amount collected from the workers. I would like