

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

to know from the hon. Minister today whether that fear has come true, whether there are many cases of big companies who, after having collected the money from the workers, have not deposited it with Government. In fact, I would like to know from Government what will happen to these workers. Have you returned the first instalment in these cases where the companies have not deposited the money with Government? Will these workers get back the money which they have already paid? I would like to know the amount of arrears from those companies which have not deposited the money with Government and whether Government has got any account of it.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI :

A certain doubt was expressed by some hon. Members at that time, and some cases have come to the knowledge of Government. We find that some of them are in the public sector too, besides the private sector. We find that Coal (India) Ltd., and its subsidiaries are also figuring in this. The names of these defaulting units have been brought to the notice of the Department of Coal, Ministry of Energy, and instructions have also been issued that without any further delay action should be taken in these cases. We also find that notices of proceedings have been lodged against some of them. As a matter of fact, criminal proceedings have been authorised against 59 of these. Either action can be taken by the District Collector for recovering the amount as arrears of land revenue or there is an option to launch criminal proceedings against them. The Government would like to assure that no delay or anything like that will be tolerated or allowed.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN : The assurance is good. But before she gave this assurance, certain things had happened. In Calcutta, for example, in the month of July, the Government should have returned Rs. 185 lakhs to the employees. But

what is returned is only Rs. 5.4 lakhs. This is on account of wages. On account of D.A., the amount that the Government should have returned is Rs. 14.1 crores and the interest on it comes to Rs. 6 crores. What is returned is a paltry sum of Rs. 40 lakhs.

Who are the victims of this? Naturally, the workers who earned this money by the sweat of their labour and kept it with the companies. Now, some sharks have made a profit out of it. I would like to have a categorical answer from the Government, in cases where the payments have not been made by big companies, whether the Government will make the payments and the companies will be taken to task later or immediately. The workers should not suffer. Will the Government give an assurance on the floor of the House that they are going to do that and, in cases of non-payment, what action has the Government taken so far?

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI :

I would like to assure the hon. Member that none of these sharks, big or small, will be allowed to make a profit out of it. Apart from that, the workers' interests will not be allowed to suffer. So far as the interest on this impounded money is concerned, even if they do not receive the money within this month, they will not lose interest. They shall receive interest till the end of the last month. In the meantime, the Government does not take up the responsibility of re-payment. It is really the responsibility of those companies. Therefore, every action is being initiated in that direction. As a matter of fact, a meeting of all these various Ministries of the Government has taken place. Instructions have been issued that the work should be expedited. In the meantime, a close vigilance is being kept over other companies. In addition, in the Act itself, a provision has been made for penal rate of interest. All these matters are under the consideration of the Government.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN : It

was the Government who made the workers to pay the money. Now, here the Minister comes and says, she will not take the responsibility of re-payment. Who is responsible for that? Who will take the responsibility? (*Interruptions*).

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : It is you who impounded the money of the workers. Now, you hold the companies responsible for re-payment. It is a stinking scandal. The Government should be ashamed of it. You are shedding crocodile tears for the workers every day.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN : Who is responsible? The Government is responsible. (*Interruptions*).

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI : The Government is already seized of the matter. As far as the workers are concerned it has been made categorically clear that the workers are not going to lose...

MR. SPEAKER : Is there any time-limit fixed for making payment to workers?

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI : It is being expedited. The time factor is of the greatest importance. We are trying our best.

MR. SPEAKER : You must consider that. (*Interruptions*).

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI : May I complete it? The amount involved is a very huge amount. There is no scandal... (*Interruptions*). Let us not create any wrong impression. We have impounded it and it has done well to the economy of the country. There has been no scandal.

MR. SPEAKER : I think, the hon. Minister should first collect all the figures and lay them on the Table of the House as to which are the companies which have not made payments and then must fix as short a time-limit as possible within which all these things are to be paid.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA :

From the hon. Minister's statement in this House, it is very clear that, for the money which has been impounded but which has not been deposited, Government is not responsible. If this news reaches the workers, you can yourself judge what will be the reaction of the workers. I will repeat the question which has been put to you by the Speaker himself, namely, what is the time-limit. On the 6th of this month, the money was due to be returned to the workers. What is the time-limit by which it will be paid? If it is not paid by the company or the management or the Government, what will be the fate of the employees?

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI : He does not have to inject anything into it. Government stands by its commitment, and at the shortest time, we will see these are cleared. There is no scandal involved and it will be very unfair to say that

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN : Since this is a very important matter... (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER : You write to me; we shall consider.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS:

कालीनों तथा दरियों का निर्यात

*142. श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार कालीनों तथा दरियों का निर्यात करती है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो जिन देशों के साथ हमारा इन वस्तुओं का निर्यात व्यापार होता है, उनके नाम क्या हैं ;

(ग) सरकार ने गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान, अलग-अलग, कितनी विदेशी मुद्रा अर्जित की है ; और