

the attention of the Government been drawn to a newspaper statement that America is utilising Japan to curb and, if possible, demolish our industrial development? It was published in yesterday's papers. Instead of aiding they are trying to sabotage.

MR. SPEAKER : This is about Mitsubishi and not about the Americans.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA : He has said that Japan is being used for that purpose.

MR. SPEAKER : In this way you can connect anything.

Circulation of Counterfeit Currency

*429. **SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that there is a large scale circulation of counterfeit currency in the country;

(b) if so, the steps Government have so far taken to check the circulation of counterfeit currency; and

(c) whether any foreign power is involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K.R. GANESH) : (a) From the number of counterfeit currency notes recovered in circulation or seized by the police from counterfeiters, it would appear that the problem of circulation of counterfeit currency, although not completely eradicated, is of a magnitude which can be considered extremely small in relation to the totality of currency in circulation.

(b) A statement explaining the position in brief is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) There is no evidence to suggest that any foreign power is involved in the circulation of counterfeit currency in this country.

Statement

The offences relating to counterfeiting of currency and bank notes come under the Indian Penal Code, which already provides for deterrent punishment. The offences of counterfeiting and forgery are dealt with by

the State Policy authorities, who keep a watch in this behalf and organise raids on information of counterfeiting being done by any person. The Central Bureau of Investigation also keeps the problem of counterfeiting of Indian currency under continuous study by keeping records of different techniques adopted and by reviewing periodically the appearance of counterfeit Indian currency. They have also created a 'cell' in their Economic Offences Wing to undertake investigations of serious offences of counterfeit currency and coordinate the investigations in the States. Government are setting a new bank note Press at Dewas to print notes of the denominations of Rs.10/- and above where the printing technology to be used will be such as to make counterfeiting of these notes extremely difficult, if not impossible.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH : Is the Government aware that some places notably Coimbatore and Bangalore, have become notorious as centres of counterfeit currency and many innocent people are being duped by these people? Not only that

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask a question.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH : I started with asking whether the Government is aware of the fact that Coimbatore and Bangalore are considered to be notorious centres of this racket in forged currency.

The Government is not able to check this sort of racket going on with the result that small people are being deceived and some people are getting benefited and becoming rich overnight. May I know whether the Government is aware of this fact and, if so, what action they are taking in this regard?

MR. SPEAKER : The supplementaries should not be in the form of making suggestions and giving information. They should be directly in the shape of questions. I hope you will avoid it in future.

SHRI K.R. GANESH : As the House knows, as far as Coimbatore is concerned, a large amount of currency was seized even before it went into circulation. The Government has taken various steps in connection with the stopping of this evil. The printing of counterfeit currency is an offence punishable under the Indian Penal Code. The C.B.I.

is also keeping a close watch on it and studying the various methods and techniques used in it. They have set up a cell in the Economic Offences Wing to find out, to evaluate and to locate the evil. A new press is going to be set up at Dewas in which an improved technology will be used and, after using that technology, it will become impossible to print counterfeit currency, particularly, of denominations of Rs. 10 and above.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH : May I know whether the Government is aware of the fact that much of the Chinese currency has also been pumped into India through some neutral countries and, if so, whether the Government is going to make a thorough investigation in the matter?

SHRI K. R. GANESH : This matter is being continuously looked into by the C.B.I and they have said that there is no foreign power involved in the printing of counterfeit currency.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : The most influencing centres of circulation of this fake currency are the heads of religious institutions in Mysore State. May I know whether the Government has probed into the matter. The *Muthadhipaties* in Mysore State are manufacturing and circulating fake currency. I would like to know whether the Government of India would take action against these *Muthadhipaties* in Mysore State who are indulging in this racket and whether they will nationalise these religious institutions. Is the Government of India going to investigate into all this?

SHRI K.R. GANESH : He is giving an information.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : Let the Minister give a categorical reply to my question.

M. R. SPEAKER : I did not know such things are done in your State.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : I want a categorical reply to my question. These *Mathadhipaties* are in league with the manufacture and circulation fake currency. May I know whether the Government of India will probe into this matter?

SHRI K. R. GANESH : This is an offence under the Indian Penal Code, It

comes under the jurisdiction of the State Government and it is for them to take action:

श्री हुकूम चंद कच्छवाय : अध्यक्ष महोदय, पिछले अनेक वर्षों से समाचार-पत्रों में यह बात आती रही है कि जाली नोट काफी छापे जाते हैं और उनका काफी चलन है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस संबंध में आपने विभिन्न लोगों को पकड़ा, कितनों पर मुकुदमा चलाया और कितनों को सजा हुई? क्या यह सही है कि जो जयारी की आज बन्नी होती जा रही है, उसकी पूर्ति विदेशों से सिक्के चोरी-छिपे लावार की जा रही है, क्या इस तरह सरकार का ध्यान गया है?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : इतना लम्बा प्रश्न है, इसके लिये तो काफी स्टेटिस्टिक्स चाहिये।

SHRI K. R. GANESH : The second part does not arise out of the main question. I have figure of the recovery of counterfeit currency with me. It is a long list. The amount of counterfeit currency which has been seized, compared to the total currency in circulation is infinitesimally small.

श्री हुकूम चंद कच्छवाय : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैंने पूछा था कि कितने लोग पकड़े गये, कितनों पर मुकुदमा चलाया गया, कितनों को सजा दिलाई गई?

MR. SPFAKER : That is a separate question. That does not arise out of this. You may give a separate notice. It is not relevant.

श्री अटल बिहारी धाजपेयी : यह तो रैले-वंट क्लबचन है। माननीय मंत्री जी ने माना है कि ऐसा करेन्सी पकड़ी गई है। जब करेन्सी पकड़ी गई है तो यह पूछना कि कितने लोग पकड़े गये हैं—यह कैसे इरंलवेंट है। अगर मंत्री महोदय के पास जवाब नहीं है तो वह कह सकते हैं कि इसकी इम वक्त जानकारी नहीं है।

MR. SPEAKER : It is not relevant. How is the Minister aware that you are going to ask how many people were arrested? You may give separate notice.

श्री हुकम चंद कछवाय : आप ऐसा कह कर घाँस देना चाहते हैं, अगर ऐसा है तो हम बाहर चले जाते हैं। मैंने तो सीधा सवाल पूछा है, अगर सरकार के पास जानकारी नहीं है तो कहे कि जानकारी नहीं है। क्या आप चाहते हैं कि हम प्रश्न ही न पूछें ?

MR. SPEAKER : The question is whether Government are aware about this and this is addressed to the Minister of Finance. You ask whether they are aware that there is large-scale circulation of counterfeit currency. You ask, if this is so, the steps Government have taken so far. He gave the reply.

SHRI A. K. GOPALAN : The Minister should give us information about the number of people arrested. If he does not have the information, let him say that he requires notice.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, आप इस पर शांति से विचार करें, हम इसमें कोई गर्मी पैदा नहीं करना चाहते हैं। आप का निर्णय हमको मान्य होगा। जब मंत्रीजी कहते हैं कि मुद्रा पकड़ी गई तो उनसे पूछा जा सकता है कि इसके बारे में कितने लोग पकड़े गये। वह बह सकते हैं कि हमारे पास जानकारी नहीं है लेकिन आप इस को इर्रलेवेन्ट नहीं कह सकते।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह सवाल इस सवाल के किस पार्ट में उठता है ?

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : (बी) में उठता है।

SHRI K. R. GANESH : I have the figures as far as the counterfeit currency that has been detected is concerned. As for the number of persons arrested, we shall have to collect the information from the various State Governments, because the State Governments are the prosecuting agencies. We shall supply the figures. Surely, when the counterfeit currency has been detected some people would have been arrested also.

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO JOSHI : What are the steps taken to check it ? The answer should include the number of persons arrested also.....

MR. SPEAKER : After all, the hon. Minister should have some knowledge about it. It is no use all the Members getting up and asking for this information.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : That shows that Government are callous over the issue.

MR. SPEAKER : Not at all. मुझे अफसोस है कि बजाय मुझे हैल्पफुल होने के आप भी इसमें शामिल हो जाते हैं।

श्री अम्बेश : माननीय मंत्रीजी ने बताया कि वाउन्टर-फीट क्वायन्ज को रोकने के लिये किसी हाई-टेकनीक का प्रयोग किया जायगा और एक नया प्रेस देवास में खोला जा रहा है जहाँ करेन्सी बनेगी। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो नई करेन्सी बनेगी, उसको देखते हुए क्या पुरानी करेन्सी को बन्द किया जायगा या पुरानी करेन्सी भी चलती रहेगी ? हाई-टेकनीक के प्रयोग के बाद पुरानी करेन्सी को चालू रखने से कोई फायदा नहीं होगा।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप भाषण बन्द कीजिये, प्रश्न कीजिये। बड़ी मुश्किल हो गई है, सब को बहना पड़ता है।

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) : The hon. Member is really shifting the ground of his question. As I have stated, we are starting a new press, but the idea is not to discontinue the old currency. Really speaking, the capacity of the present press is falling short of our requirements, and, therefore, we are adding the additional capacity for printing.

श्री अम्बेश : मंत्री महोदय ने कहा है कि हाई-टेकनीक का प्रयोग होगा, जिसमें वाउन्टर-फीट करेन्सी की गुंजाइश कम हो जायगी- इसलिये यह सवाल इसमें पैदा होता है।

श्री यशवंतराव चव्हाण : यह गलत है, आइडिया यह नहीं है कि पुरानी करेन्सी को बन्द कर दें। ऐसी बात नहीं है।

श्री बी०पी०मौर्य : जाली नोट छापने का काम या जाली सिक्के बनाने का काम बढ़ता जा रहा

है, क्योंकि बहुत ही आसानी से आदमी रात भर में लखपति बन जाता है। इसको रोकने के लिये क्या सरकार ने कोई ऐसा निश्चय किया है कि इसकी सजा को बढ़ाया जाय, क्योंकि इसके लिये इनाम ज्यादा है और सजा कम है ?

SHRI K. R. GANESHI : It is a good suggestion, and we shall take that into consideration.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA : May I know whether there is any truth in the report that some attempts had been made at duplicating and triplicating some of our own currency in some of our printing presses? I would like to believe that it is not true, but even so, there may be some truth in the report that there has been some attempts at duplicating and triplicating some of our currency in our printing presses....

AN HON. MEMBER : In the Government printing presses.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA : That is what I mean, I meant the Government printing presses.

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN : As far as I am concerned, I have no such information; I have not received any such complaints.

SHRI K. MANOHARAN : Let him try to inquire.

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN : We shall have to make inquires, because it seems to be an ingenious way of doing things.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : That is done.

SHRI YASHWANTRAO CHAVAN : We shall look into this aspect.

National Plan for Tourism

*430. SHRI P. K. DEO : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Travel Agents Association has urged Government to draw up a national plan for Tourism in the country in consultation with the industry; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The suggestion is under examination.

SHRI P. K. DEO : How far is the government proposal to abolish the tax holiday on hotel promotion going to be helpful in promoting tourism in the country?

DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI : We are going to have a debate on the Demands for Grants when this can be discussed.

SHRI P. K. DEO : I Would like to have the Ministry's reaction.

MR. SPEAKER : They will indicate it during the debate at that time.

SHRI P. K. DEO : Are they not capable of replying now?

SHRI H. M. PATEL : Why should they not reply now?

DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI : It is our view that the hotel industry should also be encouraged. We shall have to abide by whatever view Government takes.

SHRI P. K. DEO : No less a person that the Chairman of Air India has categorically stated that while the 20 per cent tax on foreign travel will yield Rs. 7 crores, Government in Air India would be losing Rs. 8.5 crores on this account. Air India being a government concerns, this is a matter of great concern to us. How far is this tax going to promote tourism?

MR. SPEAKER : From the national plan he has gone to the tax on fare. It is not relevant.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : What Shri Deo says is that a memorandum has been sent by Air India to Government....

MR. SPEAKER : I have not permitted him .