

National Development Council in September, 1970. Certainly, this matter will be considered again in the National Development Council, which will be fairly in the near future.

**SHRI GHITTA BASU:** Will the Gadgil formula be revised in the National Development Council?

**SHRI H. M. PATEL:** I cannot give an assurance on that account. I can only say that the matter will be considered.

श्री रामदास सिंह : बिहार में बाढ़ से बहुत भारी क्षति हुई है। गंगा की बाढ़ से वहाँ बहुत से एरिया का कटाव हुआ है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या बिहार सरकार ने सेंटर से इस बाढ़ से बचाव के लिए या सूखे से प्रभावित क्षेत्रों में राहत कार्य सुलभ करने के लिए कुछ अनुदान की मांग की है या नहीं की है?

**SHRI H. M. PATEL:** The Bihar Government has requested for general assistance from the Central resources without referring to this particular kind of assistance.

श्री राज भूषण तिवारी : उन राज्यों के बारे में जिन की सरकारों ने पिछली एमरजेंसी के दौरान अपने साधनों का दुरुपयोग किया और जिस के कारण उन पर शोकर ड्राफ्ट हो गया, सारे साधन नष्ट झप्ट हो गए उनके डिफिसिट को तथा उनके साधनों को पूरा करने के लिए क्या आप सहायता देंगे? क्या उत्तर प्रदेश की सरकार ने ऐसा कोई आवेदन केन्द्र के पास भेजा है और यदि भेजा है तो उस पर क्या कार्रवाई की गई है?

**SHRI H. M. PATEL:** The Uttar Pradesh Government has asked for financial assistance because of the large gap in its resources. As I said at the outset, I shall be discussing with each State Chief Minister and the Government how exactly they propose to raise more resources and in what way the Centre can come to their rescue. Undoubtedly, we cannot permit continuous over-drafts because it is one form of deficit financing.

**SHRI S. NANJESHA GOWDA:** Whenever the States ask for assistance for drought affected areas, the Central team visits and assesses their requirements and some assistance is given. As has been said by many hon. Members, in many

cases the money has gone down the drain. I would like to know whether the Central Government will send a central team and find out whether the money given is spent properly or not in respect of the various States, particularly Karnataka. And all those Ministers who have looked have now been upgraded as Cabinet Ministers.

**SHRI H. M. PATEL:** The hon. Member has not fully understood what I said earlier. It is only in regard to natural calamities and damage resulting from natural calamities that a central team is sent out....

**MR. SPLAKER:** Not otherwise.

**SHRI H. M. PATEL:** So far as other things are concerned, it is discussed with the State Governments.

**Violation of foreign exchange regulations by "Balayogi"**

\*796. **SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN:** Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there were certain cases pending against "Balayogi", a self-proclaimed child-god, who came to India from United States a few years ago in a chartered flight with lot of money and other valuables along with plane load of disciples;

(b) the details and nature of those cases pending against him for violation of FERA and Customs Act etc.; and

(c) what action Government have taken against this person?

**THE MINISTER OF FINANCE & REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL):** (a) to (c). Shri Prem Pal Singh Rawat alias Balvogeshwar arrived by a chartered flight at Palam Airport on 7-11-1972 accompanied by his disciples. Foreign currency, jewellery and watches worth Rs. 2.85 lakhs were found in excess in the personal baggage of Balyogeshwar, Behari Singh, his secretary and Miss Joan Apter, one of Balyogeshwar's disciples. Foreign currency, jewellery and watches were absolutely confiscated and a penalty of Rs. 10,000/- each was imposed on Shri Prem Pal Singh Rawat alias Balyogeshwar and Behari Singh. Shri Balyogeshwar and Behari Singh have preferred appeals to the Central Board of Excise and Customs against the adjudication order, which is pending.

Shri Behari Singh was also found guilty of violations of certain provisions of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act and

the Directorate of Enforcement had imposed penalties of a total of Rs. 7,07,000 in three cases. Foreign Exchange involved was ordered to be confiscated. Shri Behari Singh has filed appeals against the above adjudication orders before the Foreign Exchange Regulation Appellate Board, which are pending. In a fourth case of foreign exchange violation Shri Behari Singh is being prosecuted in a New Delhi Court and a complaint has been filed in this regard.

**SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY:** Have they got any assets to pay the fine ?

**MR. SPEAKER:** He wants to put everybody's question himself.

**SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN:** This Balyogeshwar descended on Delhi on 7-11-72 with a big entourage and a large contraband. Now, according to the answer given by the Minister, the cases are still pending even after five years.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister the reasons for the undue delay in settling these cases and why the government failed to institute cases against Balyogeshwar. Here cases are charged against the secretary, one Behari Singh. I would like to know why the government is unduly delaying and why it has not charged cases against Balyogeshwar.

**SHRI H. M. PATEL:** The delay is due entirely to the fact that the person concerned is not in this country and it may be noted that there are appeals which are pending. So far as the government are concerned, orders have been passed as to what penalties should be levied and what should be confiscated.

In so far as Sri Balyogeshwar is concerned, it is the view of the enforcement authorities and others that Sri Balyogeshwar himself does not come within the mischief of the provisions of the various Acts because, whatever the reason—there are certain reasons, if you like I can give you all the technical reasons—he does not come within the mischief of the provisions of these Acts. He spoke through other people. Therefore, it is they who have come within the mischief. That is why his Secretary has been proceeded against.

**SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN:** This Balyogeshwar has been permitted or was allowed by the government to go outside the country when cases were pending against him and even when there were criminal cases pending against him. At that time when warrant was pending, he was permitted to take the plane from Palam airport. Why ?

Secondly, I want to know this. The hon. Minister stated that he is very far away, he is not in India. Is he an Indian citizen ? Was that probe made ?

**SHRI H. M. PATEL:** I do not know what his citizenship is. He was an Indian citizen at that time. I will tell you the reason why the Reserve Bank of India under a notification had granted general permission for any person to acquire foreign exchange by way of remuneration or by way of gift provided the same was surrendered to an authorised dealer within 30 days of its receipt. In this case the foreign exchange acquired by Shri Prem Pal Rawat, alias, Balyogeshwar, will be by way of gift or remuneration and therefore no offence was committed by him while acquiring foreign exchange. The only condition in such cases was that it should have been surrendered within 30 days. In view of this he could not be proceeded against under Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947. There is no criminal case pending against him.

**SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN:** What is the total amount Government acquired by way of penalty or fine and by way of confiscation ?

**SHRI H. M. PATEL:** Penalty was Rs. 10,000 which was imposed on Balyogeshwar and Behari Singh. So far as the Directorate of Enforcement is concerned, they imposed penalties of a total amount of 7.07 lakhs in 3 cases. In my original reply I said that currency, jewellery and watches worth Rs. 2.85 lakhs were found and these were confiscated.

बौपती ब्रह्मचारी : क्या सरकार इस तरह का कोई कानून बनावेगी जिससे जैपों, पाखंडी और स्मबलर जोष जपड़े नाम के श्राये योनेबवर, नूत, महात्मा, ब्रह्मचारी जदि विशेषणों का इस्तेमाल न कर सकें और लोगों को घोषा न दे सकें और उन्हें ठग न सकें ?

**SHRI H. M. PATEL:** We will certainly consider bringing in any legislation if necessary to plug any loopholes. But, it will affect all citizens and, naturally, whoever is involved will be covered by that.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE:** I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has made any assessment of the contribution and the work the so-called Godmen, who are called by various epithets, done by them and what image they have made of this country abroad ?

What steps, if any, do the Government propose to take to check the derogatory activities on the image of this country, that these persons have made if any?

SHRI H. M. PATEL: I hope the hon. Member will realise that this particular Godman started his activities in 1970-71 and in 1972 he was arrested and, I hope, that the Government in those days, had gone into all these. I will certainly go into the matter now to see what can be done in regard to this.

श्री रामधारी शास्त्री : मंत्री महोदय ने अपने उत्तर में बताया है कि बालयोगेश्वर के मेक्रेटरी ने गोल-माल किया और उस के सामान में से स्मगल की हुई चीजें रगमद की गईं। लेकिन बालयोगेश्वर की आज्ञा से यह सब खर्च किया जाता है, और उन के लिए किया जाता है। क्या सरकार इस बात पर विचार करेगी कि बालयोगेश्वर के खिलाफ क्रिमिनल केस चलाया जाये? क्या सरकार यह भी ध्यान रखेगी कि बालयोगेश्वर इस लिये पकड़ में नहीं आ पा रहे हैं कि बहुत से अधिकारी उन के चेले हैं?

SHRI H. M. PATEL: Sir, as I said, Shri Balu Yogeshwar at the moment is not in this country. We can only start the proceedings under the law and, there is no law under which he can be prosecuted.

ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में गैर-राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंकों की शाखायें खोलना

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\* 797. डा० लक्ष्मी नारायण पांडेय : श्री कलचन्ध बर्वा

क्या वित्त तथा राजस्व और बैंकिंग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या सरकार का विचार उन बैंकों को जिनका राष्ट्रीयकरण नहीं किया गया, ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में अपनी शाखाएँ खोलने को प्रोत्साहित करने का है?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE & REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): The policy of the Government and the Reserve Bank of India is to secure enlargement of the branch net work of commercial banks in the rural areas. The Indian commercial banks in the private sector are also implementing this policy.

डा० लक्ष्मी नारायण पांडेय : क्या वह सही है कि सरकार की नीति के बावजूद

व्यावसायिक या वाणिज्यिक बैंक ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में न जा कर केवल शहरी क्षेत्रों तक ही सीमित रह जाते हैं या शहर के निकटवर्ती स्थानों में शाखाएँ खोलते हैं, जिसके कारण ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में रहने वाले किसान और दूसरे लोग बैंकों की सुविधाओं में वंचित रह जाते हैं; यदि हाँ, तो क्या सरकार इस बात की तरफ ध्यान देगी कि ये बैंक ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में जा कर कार्य करें और वहाँ उनकी अधिक-धिक शाखाएँ खुले?

SHRI H. M. PATEL: Sir, in fact, even the private sector banks have started opening branches in the rural areas and in almost the same proportion as the public sector banks.

डा० लक्ष्मी नारायण पांडेय : मैंने पूछा है कि वाणिज्यिक बैंकों की शाखायें केवल शहरों में ही खुलती हैं या शहरों के निकटवर्ती स्थानों पर खुलती हैं और वे वहाँ से ग्रामीण लोगों को फिनांस करती हैं, इस लिए क्या ऐसा कोई प्रबन्ध किया गया है कि ये बैंक अधिकतर ग्रामीण और सुदूर क्षेत्रों में भी अपनी शाखाएँ खोलें। मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि गैर-सरकारी क्षेत्र के वाणिज्यिक बैंकों ने ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में 1976-77 में कितनी शाखायें खोली हैं और 1977-78 में वे कितनी शाखायें खोलेंगे।

SHRI H. M. PATEL: Sir, I cannot tell exactly the branches they will open in 1977-78. But, what I said was that the private sector banks have opened branches in rural areas to almost the same extent as nationalised banks. Now, the nationalised banks have already opened 35.4% branches in the rural areas in the last five years. Indian private sector banks have also opened 807 branches. The non-scheduled banks have also opened branches in the rural areas but naturally they are very small and the number of very negligible.

डा० लक्ष्मी नारायण पांडेय : मेरे प्रश्न का उत्तर नहीं आया। मैंने पूछा कि कितने ब्रान्चेज खोले हैं और खोलने का प्रस्ताव है? माननीय मंत्री जी के पास अभी उत्तर नहीं है तो वह बाद में सभा पटल पर उत्तर में संबंधित बातें रख दें।