

LOK SABHA

Friday, March 6, 1987/Phalgun 15,
1908 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translations]

Cheating through Lotteries

*143. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether despite Union Government's guidelines, lotteries continue to be a source of duping common man of their hard earned money by means of various malpractices ; and

(b) if so, what further measures are contemplated by Union Government to curb this activity ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The Central Government have issued comprehensive guidelines to eliminate the scope of malpractices. The State Governments and Union Territories are periodically requested to ensure adherence to guidelines and review their rules with a view to making them more effective and curbing malpractices,

[Translation]

SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to enquire from the hon. Minister whether any case regarding the malpractice of changing the numbers of lottery tickets by chemical process has been brought to the notice of the Government? If so, what action has the Government taken on those cases upto now ?

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, no specific case has been brought to our notice. If the hon. Member wishes to bring any case to our notice, we will look into it.

[Translation]

SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT : Is the Government aware of the sale of fake tickets on a large scale ?

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : This is a very general question. The lotteries run by private agencies or private persons are really governed by legislation made by the State Government. If there is any malpractice in any lottery conducted by a private agency, I would assume that the State law will take care of that. If there is any specific case which the hon. Member has in mind and if he lets us know, we shall certainly find out what action the State Government has taken on the matter.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : The hon. Minister may be knowing full well with regard to instant lotteries which have come up recently. Immediately you get

the prize. As soon as you purchase the ticket, you get the result also whether you are getting the prize or not.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Just like instant coffee.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : Just like instant coffee or instant tea, there is instant lottery.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : You get the money immediately.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : If you get the prize.

I want to know whether this is being done with the concurrence of the Central Government. Suppose the States are at liberty to give licences to these people. I want to know whether any guidelines can be given by the Central Government in order not to allow these instant lotteries because they are actually squandering away public money. Moreover, Tamil Nadu is the best place for this. Most of the lotteries find Tamil Nadu to be the best place for selling the tickets. I want to know whether any guidelines can be given to all the State Governments.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : That is because of cinema industry.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : There are two kinds of lotteries. One, lottery organized by the Government of India or of a State; that alone comes within the legislative purview of the Central Government. We have not made a law on the subject yet. The other is, lotteries run by private agencies, private persons. That is governed by the State law. The Central Government does not really come into the picture. If there is any malpractice in those lotteries, as I said a little while ago, it is for the State Government to take action. But then the Central Government has not been indifferent to this matter. We have issued detailed guidelines on 26th June 1984 regarding conduct of lotteries by the Central Government and State Governments and lotteries to be permitted by the State Governments,

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : At that time, in 1984, there was no instant lottery.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I am coming to that. As far as instant lotteries are concerned, we have written a letter to the State Governments on 30-1-87 advising them to discourage instant lotteries and not to allow instant lotteries. We have also advised them that the printing of tickets should be got done under the aegis of the State Government. We will await the response from the State Governments on instant lotteries and if we find that the States continue to encourage instant lotteries, then we will consider taking further steps.

[Translation]

SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our country is a democratic socialist country. Gambling is a crime, but why are the states indulging in it? What steps are being taken to ban it? This kills the initiative in people. So it is essential to stop it in order to encourage their initiative. When would it be banned and what is the Government doing in this regard?

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Mr. Minister, my Private Member Bill for the abolition of lotteries is already pending. Please adopt that just as you adopted Mr. Banatwalla's Private Member Bill.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : Stop lotteries and allow casinos to be opened in Delhi; that will be a better way?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : We have sounded the State Governments on whether they would agree to legislation on State lotteries and legislation on private lotteries. Some States have responded by saying that they agree to have legislation on State lotteries and private lotteries. Some have said that they would agree to have legislation on State lotteries alone and not legislation on private lotteries because they see it as coming within the legislative competence of the State Legis-

lature under the entry 'betting and gambling'. Some States have taken the view that they do not agree to have legislation either on State lotteries or on private lotteries.....

PROF. N.G. RANGA : What are they ?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Some States.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : We have to take the consensus. As far as the Central Government is concerned, we are not running any lottery; nor do we propose to run a lottery. I think the Hon. Members should raise this question with the respective State Governments and persuade the State Governments to take a look at this matter.

DR. V. VENKATESH : What about the Congress ticket lotteries in my State ?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : I suppose the Private Members' Bill comes by lottery.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Even the portfolios come by lottery !

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Members are also coming like that !

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : With reference to the answer given by the Hon. Minister, I would like to know whether it is a fact that the Government have received complaints about the violation of the guidelines issued by the Government especially by the private lotteries authorised by the State Governments. It was in view of these very complaints that the Government had to issue fresh directive on 27.2.1985. This was in addition to the original guidelines issued by the Government asking the State Governments and the Union Territory Administrations to make it obligatory on the part of the organisers of the lotteries to adhere to the guidelines issued by the Central Government. I would like to know whether still the Government is receiving complaints of non-adherence to these guidelines and whether the Hon. Minister will consider the desirability of

recommending to the Finance Ministry to withdraw whatever benefits or exemptions being enjoyed by such organisers as are found guilty of violation of the directives and guidelines issued by the Central Government.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : The Hon. Member is correct. After the issue of the guidelines on the 26th June, 1984, when we found that there were certain complaints coming about the private lotteries, fresh guidelines were indeed issued on 27th February 1985 as stated by the Hon. Member. We don't have complaints about the lotteries run by the State Governments. But there are indeed some complaints about the lotteries run by the private agencies. Nothing has come to our notice recently. 11 States are not allowing private lotteries, and some states are allowing the private lotteries. The other suggestion made by the Hon. Member that we should write to the Ministry of Finance requesting them to review the concessions and benefits enjoyed by these lotteries is a good suggestion and we will examine it.

Memorandum Regarding Mahajan Commission Report

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*146. **SHRI G.S. BASAVRAJU** :

SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether an all party delegation of 20 Members of Parliament from Karnataka presented to the Prime Minister a memorandum on 4th December, 1986 urging him to implement the Mahajan Commission Report on Maharashtra-Karnataka border issue; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S. BUTA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This border dispute can be resolved only with the willing cooperation of the State Governments of Maharashtra