

SHRI A.K.PANJA: In our country judiciary is absolutely independent and functioning independently. Therefore, I cannot comment on the stay orders granted by the courts of law. But we are taking steps. We are briefing panel counsels so that they go in time and if any stay is granted they make a proper application for getting it vacated. Now courts are also usually issuing notice to the Government before granting *ad interim* stay.

Recovery of Government Taxes

*249. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to recover taxes from tax dodgers in the manner in which land revenues are recovered;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K.PANJA) : (a) to (c). A statement is given below:-

STATEMENT

(a) to (c).

Central Excise and Customs

The Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944 and Customs Act, 1962 already provides for recovery of arrears of duties as arrears of land revenue.

Income Tax

Provisions for recovery of taxes due under the various direct tax Acts are contained in sections 220 to 232 of the Income Tax Act read with its Second and Third

Schedule. these provisions are quite exhaustive and there is no proposal to recover taxes in any other manner.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Sir, already lot of discussion has taken place on tax evasion. In this Section we have also seen how tax evaders and even those who fail to submit their returns before the last date have been exempted from payment of interest and other fine. In spite of Government's assertion here I would like to say they are not sincere to bring those evaders to book. Can you tell the House out of the total amount of your direct tax what is the amount that you collect from business people, professionals, etc. What is their share in this total tax that you collect? From corporate tax you more or less make the collection and so also from the salaried people. But how much you collect from these businessmen, professionals, etc.

SHRI A.K.PANJA: Unless the hon. Member specifies share of which class and upto what amount, it is very difficult to say. But at the beginning when the hon. Member commented that the Government is not sincere, I contradict that. Government is sincere. If you take the law as it is then the amnesty granted once in a life-time is given in the law passed by this House. There are decisions also. It has been decided by several courts that three points are to be satisfied. These are: No notice has been given to him; that it has been done in good faith and whether he has made arrangement for payment. Those are the points which have to be satisfied. So you please detach yourself from political propaganda and then you will find that the officers have done correctly in deciding and giving the decision.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: The Minister has still not clarified. This largest section of the people, flourishing middlemen, businessmen and film stars they are not paying tax properly. These people are investing their blackmoney. Government is accusing

them but what is the actual recovery made from that section? What is the amount of increased collection from that section? That has not been clarified. I want to know categorically from the hon. Minister.

SHRI A.K.PANJA: Unless specific names are given... (*Interruptions*). They have got only one name. From what the hon. Member has said, I can find that he is interested in filmstars and their earnings. I have got the list. I don't want to take the time because this has already been answered in the House.

I have got the total list of persons so far as filmstars are concerned. I can show it to the Member.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Sobhanadreeswara Rao.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Let it be laid on the Table of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: I have not allowed him.

[*Translation*]

You interrupt others, This is bad.

[*English*]

I have allowed Mr. Rao. It is his right. I have allowed him a supplementary and you are interjecting it.

(*Interruptions*)

MR.SPEAKER: Now, it is no problem. that has already been done. That has already come in the paper. Again, it can come in the paper. It can be done. But his right must not be usurped and trampled under your feet.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: The hon. Minister has said that already the Central Excise Act provides for recovery

of arrears of duty as arrears of land revenue.

I would like to know categorically from the hon. Minister what steps have been taken by the Government to recover more than Rs. 1,000 crores of excise arrears from India Tobacco Company and other cigarette manufacturing companies.

SHRI A.K. PANJA: Sir, the proceedings are now pending in a court of law. and one of the friends from the Opposition, Mr. A.K.Sen, is defending the Indian Tobacco Company in Calcutta High Court. (*Interruptions*) . A show-cause notice has been issued.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: I object to it . He cannot cast reflection on lawyers. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Objection sustained.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : I agree with you

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : They have to do their duty. It does not matter whether they are in the ruling party or in the opposition.

[*English*]

SHRI A.K.PANJA: We have won the case before the single Judge in Calcutta. It is now being argued before Division Bench. So far as Madras High Court is concerned, we have won there. It is in the show-cause stage, which has been challenged. When the stage comes for claiming and recovering it as land revenue, we shall certainly do it.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: You speak on your turn.

[English]

SHRI S.JAIPAL REDDY: Thank you, Sir. I would like to know whether the Minister will be prepared to lay on the Table of the House the income-tax arrears of various filmstars.

I would also like to know whether it is a fact that Mr. Amitabh Bachchan has recently filed a return in which he showed that his income has gone up by one crore more
(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Why are they defending? There is no allegation.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Your first question was pertinent.

[English]

SHRI AMAL DATTA: It is in the papers. How can it be avoided now?

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: First you put the question; that will also be done. There is no dispute about that.

[English]

I don't mind about it. Different questions are to be made. That does not matter

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Why do you quarrel, you put the proper question.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please order.

(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: I did not level any allegation, Sir.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: He did not allege anything... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not behave like that, it makes no difference.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: I wanted to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that Mr. Amitabh Bachchan filmstar and former Member of this House, had recently filed a return showing that he had earned one crore more than what he showed earlier.

If so, what is the action taken thereon?
(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: There is nothing against you.

SHRI A.K.PANJA: This question does not arise out of this question but I have ...
(Interruptions).

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Let him finish. Why do you stand up when he is speaking

[English]

I do not know what he is saying.

[Translation]

This, habit of interrupting is wrong.

[English]

I can allow a second question also. I am not against it. I will not bar you. You can put a direct question on that subject and I will allow you.

SHRI A.K.PANJA: The question does not arise out of this question. This is a general question. I have also seen the newspaper but the details are not with me. When the details come .. (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: This is something which cannot be hidden.

[English]

SHRI A. K. PANJA: There is a system in which the country is run. I, as a Minister, cannot now immediately refer to the Income Tax Officer. It has to come up gradually. The Government has a right of appeal and he has got a right of appeal. It has to come. We have to rely on the system. I cannot be the supporter of the Opposition who is trying to break the system. I cannot do it. Sir. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: He was asking whether you are prepared to put the list on the Table of the House.

SHRI A.K.PANJA : Coming to that question, I have got the names but I do not think...(*Interruptions*)... If you order me, I will do so. But I do not feel that it arises out of this question. I can certainly show it to the hon. Member, if he wishes. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: I asked for the information of Amitabh Bachohan's case. I did not ask him....

MR. SPEAKER: When he gets the information, he will give it to you. When he has not got, why should he give you wrong information ? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI A.K.PANJA: It has been answered on the 5th August in reply to Starred Question No 159 by Shri Uttamrao Patil and Shri Jai Prakash Aggarwal. It has been answered. If the hon. Member wants to look at it, he can do so. He has asked for the names. He did not ask for the amount.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: I have asked for the amount also.

SHRI A.K.PANJA: But it is not with me now.

MR. SPEAKER: You can ask and I will get it for you.

[Translation]

If you ask the question, I will get it for you. He has told that.

[English]

I cannot ask him to give wrong information to you and then you catch him

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: You direct him to give the information to me. (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You give a notice. I shall allow it.

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Why lay on his table? Why not lay on this Table.