

RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 29th April, 1983|9
Vaisakha, 1905 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock. **Mr. Chairman** in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Land racket involving property of Bombay Port Trust

*61. **SHRI CHAND RAM:**†
SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether an alleged multi-million rupee land racket involving property of Bombay Port Trust is being investigated by the C.B.I.;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what are the names and designations of officials, if any involved in the racket?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI):

(a) and (b). It had come to the notice of the Government that certain individuals were claiming to have secured allotment of a plot of land measuring 39,846 sq. meters belonging to the Bombay Port Trust, on a long term lease of 29 years for the construction of a Five-Star Hotel. Documents have been forged by them to indicate that the land in question was being made available on lease. However, no such proposal for allotment of land on a long term lease for the construction of a hotel had been considered by the Bombay Port Trust or the Ministry of Shipping & Transport; neither was there any correspondence about this matter between the Bombay Port Trust and the Ministry of

Shipping and Transport, nor between them and any private firm or individual. *Prima facie* it appeared a case of forgery and cheating. The C.B.I. was therefore entrusted with the case.

(c) No official appears to be involved.

SHRI CHAND RAM: Sir, may I know if this land has actually been physically grabbed by the individuals involved in the forgery?

श्री सनपति : काबिज तो नहीं हो गया ?

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI: No, Sir. No question of possession arises.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Anything else?

SHRI CHAND RAM: No, Sir.

SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT: Sir, from what has been reported in the press and the available sources, it is clear that it is not a solitary case of fraudulent activities going on in the country. As a matter of fact it is a fact part of the international racketeering going on in league with some high-ranking officials in the Government and the Bombay Port Trust Authorities. Sir, this multi-million rupee racket is most scandalous and is of utmost concern to us keeping the national interests in view.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am just asking you one question. Are you willing to assert that what has been said by the Minister is wrong?

SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT: No, Sir. I do not say that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Then, what is the question? This is limited to one little matter. He has said that this is entirely wrong and that ends the matter. But if you are willing to assert that what he has said is wrong, make that statement and take the consequences.

SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT: That is not my submission. My submission is that in this particular case the names of two persons have been

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Chand Ram.

mentioned, namely, Paramjeet Singh *alias* Kinni of Kapurthala and L. K. Kaul, and I am glad that these two people have been taken into custody. Now, will the hon'ble Minister be able to please enlighten the House if some more facts could be found out after taking these people in the custody?

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI: Sir, these two persons, named by the hon. Member, have been taken into custody and after some inquiry by the CBI they were released by a court order on bail.

SHRI SANKAR PRASAD MITRA: Sir, I want to know the date of this forged lease, the date on which the lease was executed and which the Government says is a forged document. Secondly, when was the criminal case launched, in which court it was launched and which court has granted the bail.

SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY: Sir, this is a long story. This has been happening from 1981. In June, 1982, on the 16th of June, 1982, it is presumed there was a letter from the Ministry and they asked for extension of time of that authority and they wanted time up to the 19th to pay the amount. They had also forged some letters saying...

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the date of the letter. Is it 1982?

SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY: Yes, one letter is dated 16th June, 1982; then 9th July is another letter asking for time; then 10th August...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Which court granted the bail?

SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY: Some local court; I don't know which court; still, CBI is enquiring into the whole matter. More than this, I cannot say.

SHRI SANKAR PRASAD MITRA: He is talking of letters. The other hon. Minister who gave the reply, spoke about the lease. Lease and letters are two different things.

SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY: There is nothing like that in the BPT or the Government. All these are forged letters which they concocted themselves.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: As the Minister has stated, and you have rightly asked us whether we can assert, Sir, land-grabbing is becoming a fashion nowadays. Two days back we discussed in Hyderabad about that Siddiqui affair which is going on. I want to know, apart from these two persons, are you sure, Mr. Minister, can you assert now whether the officers concerned with these letters have been suspended, sent home or what action has been taken against those officers...

MR. CHAIRMAN: in whose name...

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: I can take the names, but I don't want to; otherwise I would take the names of those officers if you want me to.

SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY: I assert that none of the officers in the Bombay Port Trust or the Government are involved. There is some other party, which is forging and trying...

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: You mean between the Ministry and the Bombay Port Trust?

SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY: Yes.

SHRI SANKAR PRASAD MITRA: If no officer is involved, why is the CBI enquiry taking place?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Because of forgery.

SHRI SADASHIV BAGATKAR: I would like to know from the hon. Minister one thing. In his first reply, he said there is a case of forgery, and the CBI was called in because of forgery. But normally, forgery matters, you know, are investigated by the local CID and police establishments who deal with such normal criminal activities. CBI was called in,

according to my information—and this appeared in the press—because there was involvement of certain officers of the Ministry of Shipping.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: That is the point.

SHRI SADASHIV BAGAITKAR: And the forgery was concocted. If it was forgery—I am not sure about that, but if it was forgery—it was concocted because certain officers of the Ministry of Shipping were in league with those elements. Now, the hon. Minister informs us that they are let off on bail. I would like to know from him, what are the conditions of the bail, because knowing full well, as to what happened in the case of Dharm Teja in this country...

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is all right.

SHRI SADASHIV BAGAITKAR: I am quoting precedents. He jumped bail and crores of rupees were involved against him. He returned to India and now he has again disappeared. This is how things are happening in this country. I would like to know what are the conditions of the bail on which they are released. If they are foreign nationals, as you hinted they are foreign nationals, are the passports impounded? What is the position?

SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY: There is no similarity between that case and this case... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: That case dragged on. Now, what is the position here?

SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY: The position is, CBI is enquiring.

MR. CHAIRMAN: And terms of the bail?

SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY: I don't know the terms of bail. It is the Metropolitan Magistrate who allowed bail. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: On bail of how much? Is it thousand rupees, five hundred?

SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY: I have not got the facts.

SHRI SADASHIV BAGAITKAR: He said they are foreign nationals, some Kenyan or some gentleman you said. How is it you don't know the conditions of the bail? Are they going to jump the bail? Are their passports impounded? How don't you know it?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are they foreigners?

SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY: We can stop them; we have control over the passports... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are they foreigners?

SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY: No, they are Indians.

SHRI SADASHIV BAGAITKAR: This is no way of answering questions.

SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY: All are Indian nationals, I said.

SHRI SANKAR PRASAD MITRA: With your experience as legal luminary, you can appreciate how is it that they are let off on a bail of Rs. 500 for this kind of offence, and the Minister is taking shelter under CBI enquiry.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it Rs. 500?

SHRI SANKAR PRASAD MITRA: Whenever we ask any question, he is talking about the CBI.

MR. CHAIRMAN: How much is the bail?

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI: We do not exactly know.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: The Minister first said 500. Now, he says he does not know. Why are they shielding people?

MR. CHAIRMAN: They are not shielding. उनको मालूम ही नहीं है कुछ, बैठिए।

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI: I am not shielding anybody.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Pure Drinks wala you are shielding.

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI: The Minister has already said that we require notice for this. If the hon. Members are so much interested in the quantum of the amount on which these persons have been bailed out...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can put it on the Table of the House.

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI: They are only interested in that. Till now, there is no information that any foreign national is involved.

Procurement price of wheat

*62. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI:†
SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have declared the procurement price for wheat at Rs. 151 per quintal;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and on what basis this price has been fixed;

(c) whether Government are aware that the farmers are not satisfied with the price as it is unremunerative in view of the rise in the cost of production; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government propose to increase the price; and if not what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The procurement price of wheat for 1983-84 marketing season has

† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Shanti Tyagi.

been fixed on the basis of the recommendation made by the Agricultural Prices Commission and after taking into consideration the views of the State Governments, concerned Central Ministries and the Planning Commission.

(c) The policy of the Government is to ensure remunerative prices to the farmers and there are no indications that the farmers are generally not satisfied with the price fixed.

(d) Does not arise.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Sir, nowadays, you are not looking to anybody.

श्री सभापति : आप बोलते हैं उधर नहीं देखो। उधर नहीं देख रहा हूँ। 'यू से दैट' उधर ही देखते हैं।

श्री शान्ति त्यागी : श्रीमन् पिछले वर्ष गेहूँ का फी क्विंटल रेट 142 रुपये घोषित किया गया था और इस साल 151 रुपये। मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि इस एक साल में जो एग्रीकल्चर इन्पुट्स हैं और दूसरी चीजें हैं उनमें जो मंहगाई बढ़ी है क्या उसे देखते हुए इस मौजदा रेट 151 को रखा गया है? इस मंहगाई के हिसाब से गेहूँ का आप का मूल्य 175 रुपये क्विंटल क्यों नहीं घोषित होना चाहिए था यह आप मुझे साफ बताइये ?

श्री आरिफ मोहम्मद खान : कृषि उत्पादन में प्रयोग में आने वाले सभी इन्पुट्स उनके मूल्य, मूल्य में हुई वृद्धि इन सभी बातों का ध्यान मूल्य निर्धारित करते समय रखा जाता है। इसी लिए राज्य सरकारों से केन्द्र के उन मंत्रालयों से जो उस से संबंधित हैं तथा योजना आयोग से भी परामर्श किया जाता है और उस कुछ परामर्श के बाद ही यह