

SHRI H. M. PATEL: I do not think it is right. I said that none of these four companies has been given any concession. I said this point is under examination.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether he is aware of the reports which have appeared recently not only in the Indian press but also abroad, about some of the pesticides which are being exported through these multinational companies. Experience in other countries has shown that most of these are not even tested at home before they are exported and that their use in Egypt recently resulted in large-scale death of cattle which had used fodder from these areas and that these companies are exporting these items in the name of helping the under-developed world and that most of them are not even tested at home. In view of this, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether he would have a thorough enquiry into these items which are being exported, and reconsider his decision to give them concessions because most of these items are being exported to third world countries without even being tested in the laboratories at home. And these reports are coming from international agencies.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: The question related to imports. There is no decision yet of giving concessions in the matter of customs duty. No concession has yet been given. As I said, the question of giving concessions is under examination. There is no question of exports. As I have said clear, ly, there is no question of giving any concession yet. This concession expired in regard to some chemicals in 1974 and in the case of some others, in 1976 and since then, it has not been renewed so far.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: We understand that it is under your consideration and, therefore, I am drawing your attention to it.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: My answer was that this question is under examination because there are requests and these requests must be examined.

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : ये जो चार कर्म हैं, क्या यह सही है कि जो मोनोपली मैक्शन की परिभाषा है उसके अंतर्गत आती हैं और अगर आती हैं तो क्या यह सही है कि इनका जो उत्पादन है उसकी सीमा शुल्क में छूट दी जा रही है ? जब ब्यूरो आफ इंडस्ट्रियल कौन्सिल एंड प्राइसेज की सिफारिशों पेडिंग पड़ी हुई हैं तो ऐसी स्थिति में क्यों इनको छूट दी जा रही है, यह मैं जानना चाहता हूँ ?

SHRI H. M. PATEL: I said it repeatedly that the question is being examined from the point of view of the extent to which our Indian producers are capable of producing and also to see whether there is any necessity, with regard to Indian consumers' requirements, of giving any concession in the matter of imports. On both these points we have not yet taken any decision.

Foreign Bank Accounts of Shri Sanjay Gandhi

♦184. SHRI JAGAN NATH
BHARDWAJ: f SHRI
JAGJIT SINGH
ANAND: SHRI RAMANAND
YADAV;

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a photostat copy published in a leading daily of New-Delhi of a bank draft of a Swiss bank allegedly got issued by Shri Sanjay Gandhi in favour of his wife Smt. Maneka Gandhi; and

tThe question was actually asked one the floor of the House by Shri Jagan Nath Bhardwaj.

(b) whether Government have made any enquiries to find out whether Shri Sanjay Gandhi and or Smt. Maneka Gandhi are holding any bank accounts in Switzerland or in any other foreign country; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Shri Sanjay Gandhi and Smt. Maneka Gandhi have not declared any bank account to the Reserve Bank of India either in Switzerland or in any of other foreign country.

As the photostat copy was of a draft of the Kantonal Bank of Berne Switzerland, enquiries were made with that Bank and they have confirmed that neither Shri Sanjay Gandhi nor Smt. Maneka Gandhi maintain nor have ever maintained business relations with that Bank. On examination of the photostat copy the Kantonal Bank of Berne opined that it must be a falsification of the original documents which they had issued to one of their customers, in order to give the impression that Shri Sanjay Gandhi and Smt. Maneka Gandhi would have business relations with that Bank. They have also informed that since they are deeply concerned they are trying to contact the concerned party to whom the draft has really been issued.

SHRI JAGAN NATH BHARDWAJ: Sir, will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether any further information has been received from the Kantonal Bank, Berne, Switzerland?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has said that he has not received any further information.

SHRI JAGAN NATH BHARDWAJ: They have said that they will contact the party concerned and then they will give further information on this. We are anxious to know about this.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: No further information has been received.

MR. CHAIRMAN: When you receive further information, you may supply the same to the hon. Member.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: Certainly, we shall.

SHRI JAGAN NATH BHARDWAJ: Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether it is possible for him to get any information from the Statesman which published the photostat copy? They should be having some information on this.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: They have no information whatsoever.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The matter is very clear. Whatever information he has received, he has supplied and whatever he is to receive, he will supply to the House. What more do you want? When the matter is very clear, why do you rake it up?

SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND: Sir, this matter was raised in the Lok Sabha and certain Members of the other House lauded the Statesman's enterprise in this matter. Now, firstly, I would like to know whether the hon. Minister is himself sure that this was a false photostat copy and that they are not maintaining an account. He is only going by the information supplied by the Swiss Bank. I would like to be assured on this because, on other occasions, Government have said that they have no way of knowing whether an individual, who is bypassing the Reserve Bank of India, is maintaining an account or not. If it is really a false photostat copy, has the hon. Minister seen to it that he takes it up with the Statesman? There are two ends from which it could be traced. One is the Bank and that Bank, as he has observed in his reply, has said that it will try to contact the party whose papers might have been forged. I am all for tracing down all the crimes of Mr. Sanjay Gandhi. But if you go on publishing something utterly false, it results in lack of credibility even in the case of genuine things and brings

the Government itself into disrepute. Therefore, this is a very serious matter and I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he will take up this matter with the Statesman.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: I do not see what the Government has to do in this matter. When the Statesman published this photostat copy, they had a footnote to the effect that a reader in Switzerland had sent them the copy and that they were publishing it. This is all the information that the Statesman has given.

SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND: You did not bother to ask them anything more.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Now, we have been given the information. The Government got in touch with the Swiss Bank and got the reply. It is good. Now, Sir, what about my cases? I brought to the notice of the Government a number of cases relating to Mr. Goenka, counterfoils and other things.

SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA: How is it relevant here?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: This is a very relevant question. The communication channel has been opened in regard to the Goenka business. The other day I brought to the notice of the Government that counterfoils of the receipts bank receipts etc., in favour of Maruti-Goenka were available with the Government. Certain letters have also been received wherein Mr. Goenka has requested somebody to collect the money from his American agent and give it to the former Chief Justice and his wife, former Chief Justice of Madras. All these things are there. According to the best of my information—I use the words 'best of my information'—these documents are in the possession of the Enforcement Directorate. I would like to know whether, in the light of these disclo-

tures, the Government have written to the Swiss Bank or made any enquiry through our Mission in Switzerland about the correctness of the counterfoils, receipts, letters and so on of Mr. Goenka.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: I do not think this question arises from this question. (*Interruptions*). It does not arise from this question.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: How does it not arise? I will tell you. If you want to bottle it up, you can do it, but it arises from this question as many other questions have arisen from this question. I ask you. You have been in communication with the Swiss Bank and you have developed a good practice, but have you also developed that practice in regard to Goenka's disclosures?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The point is that this supplementary does not arise out of this.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: Nevertheless, for the satisfaction of the hon. Member, I would like to tell him that the Swiss Bank's attitude in regard to these matters remains what it was before. We have been trying to persuade the Swiss Government to agree to an exchange of information in such matters, but they have so far not agreed.

Excise Duty on Bidi

185. SHRI DEORAO PATIL: SHRI KRISHNARAO

NARAYAN DHULAP: SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIYA:!

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the States which have requested the Central Government to drop the proposal to enhance the excise duty on 'bidi' in

¹The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Ibrahim Kalaniya.