

specially in the case of agronomy, water management and operation which enhance the utility of these projects with a modest expenditure. The exact amount which has been earmarked to each State project is not yet available.

Raid in Champaran District for Gold Etc.

◆94. SHRI BIPINPAL DAS:

SHRIMATI KUMUDBEN
MANI-

SHANKAR JOSHI:

SHRI K. B. CHETTRI:!

DR. V. A. SEYID

MUHAMMAD:

SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a joint team of Central Bureau of Investigations and Central Excise recently raided the house of one Shri Sitaram Rajhorea in Champaran District in Bihar and recovered huge quantities of gold and documents relating to uranium smuggling; and

(b) if so, what further steps Government have taken in unearthing such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) A search of the premises of Rajgarhia brothers at Bettiah was carried out by a joint team of the officers of Customs & Central Excise and the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence on 10th June, 1974. Neither any gold nor any document relating to the alleged uranium smuggling was recovered.

(b) Three cases of alleged pilferage of uranium ore are separately under investigation.

SHRI K. B. CHETTRI: Sir, with reference to part (b), may I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is thinking of sealing all the lockers in the banks in the country simultaneously and then open the same in the presence of the

owners of lockers and ask them to account for the gold which may be found in the lockers?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Sir, this is actually a question which should be addressed to the Finance Ministry. Part (b) does not concern lockers at all. The question is about uranium smuggling.

SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN: May I know from the hon. Minister whether any thefts of uranium have taken place and what steps have been taken by the Ministry of Home Affairs for the safety and security of uranium in the country?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Sir, I have stated in my answer that there are three cases of alleged uranium theft which are under investigation. Two cases are being investigated by the Bihar Police and the third case by the West Bengal Police. As regards the Bihar cases, request has come from the Government of Bihar for CBI take over of investigation of these cases, and the Government of India has accepted their request, and very soon a formal notification will be issued. On 7-4-74 the Bihar Police raided a house in Jamshedpur and recovered 5½ kgs. of a substance suspected to be uranium. It consisted of 750 grams of yellow coloured powder and the rest ash coloured powder, put in several plastic bags. The samples of the seized material were sent to the Atomic Energy Commission Bombay and the Uranium Corporation of India Limited Jaduguda. According to the report received by the police from the UCIL, the sample contained feeble substance of uranium. The report of the Atomic Energy Commission is still awaited.

As regards the other case in Calcutta, the Calcutta Police arrested 5 persons on 25-6-74 and recovered 525 grams of substance suspected to be uranium from them. 3 more were arrested including 2 in Bihar afterwards in connection with a case registered by Calcutta Police. A case has been registered by the Calcutta Police against all the accused persons and investigation is in progress. The material seized in Calcutta was in 5 different packets. 5 samples of seized material were, therefore, sent to the

4-The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri K. B. Chettri.

Atomic Energy Mineral Division for examination. On chemical analysis, the samples have been found to contain significant amount of uranium.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA: Sir, is the Government aware that a police constable was also arrested having been in possession of uranium substance in Bihar and in a press briefing at Champaran where this Rajgarhia' house is located in Bettiah, he said that the Customs officials at Raxaul did not have adequate arrangements for testing different varieties of ores which are smuggled from that place? What steps have the Government taken in view of those serious things that police officials and big officials are involved in the case and what steps have been taken by the Customs checkpoints on the border of Bihar to check this smuggling?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: It is true that a police constable was arrested in this connection. He is one of the persons arrested and in addition to him, 2 employees of the Jaduguda uranium complex have also been arrested. As regards the customs checkpoint not having arrangements for examining uranium, well, Sir examination of uranium ore is a very complicated matter and very highly specialised techniques are necessary for that. That is why these samples had to be sent to various establishments.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Smuggling has also become specialised and highly technical.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: So it is not possible to have examination laboratories for uranium at the custom posts or nearabout.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: May I know from the hon. Minister whether they have information that this Mr. Rajgarhia has been connected with smuggling of various kinds through Nepal and when the CBI people went, whether they were having, any information about this? About uranium, 'it is there in the newspaper reports of the last few months, that the Mafia gang have shifted their headquarters South East Asia to India and they are very much interested

in smuggling of uranium and the Foid Foundation has also shown how uranium and various other materials can be utilised for illegal purpose. May I know whether they have any information about this and the activities of Mafia gang and other smugglers specially in uranium?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Sir, some of the documents recovered from Rajgarhia brothers did indicate that they have business connections with Nepal and the aspect whether smuggling of uranium was also included in that is under investigation and we have yet to establish any link so far as that is concerned.

As regards Mafia entering into the whole picture of uranium smuggling, we are not aware of any such development.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Sir, all the newspapers reported that large quantities of gold were found in Rajhorea's house. Now you deny it. Why did you not issue a contradiction before? Is this Rajhorea also connected with certain big business houses? Has he any industrial undertakings? And what has happened to that nuclear scientist who was working in Jaduguda and disappeared? His name is Sapan Kumar. His wife alleged that her husband has been killed by a mafia gang. What has happened to that? How many cases of uranium smuggling have been found? You find it in others' possession and not with the proper party, and then the question arises of disposal of those cases. About that mafia gang, is was widely reported in various newspapers and details have been given that they have shifted their headquarters to India. Names have also been given. Have you probed into that matter when so many newspapers spoke about it with details?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: A lot of documents have been recovered in these raids of the premises belonging to Rajhorea Brothers. . . .

SHRI NIREN GHOSE: What are those documents?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: They are being examined still. Investigation is going

on. And whether he has any connection with big business houses can only be known after that investigation is over.

As regards the disappearance of Shri Sapan Kumar Sarkar, a geologist of the Atomic Minerals Division, he has been missing since 24-10-1973 and no trace of his whereabouts has been found. According to the enquiries that we have made from the Bihar Police, they say that there is no connection between his missing and the smuggling of uranium.

DR. RAMKRIPAL SINHA: How much has Rajhore contributed to the Congress Party funds in the last general elections? That is my supplementary. . .

(Interruptions)

SHRI CHAIRMAN: Please sit down.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: I seek your protection, Sir. I asked whether he has conducted any investigation into the reports of shifting of headquarters of mafia gang. Has the Government done anything?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: There were press reports to that effect and the Government always investigates such matters. But as I said already, we cannot say that the headquarters are shifted to anywhere. These are very wild and generalized statements and nothing can be said about them.

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA: Has the Government come across a report in the Jan Sangh weekly, Organizer, which alleges mischievously that a Central Minister and whose brother is a Minister in the Bihar Cabinet is involved in this smuggling business, and will the Government take steps to clear the position and stop the mischief which is being perpetrated by this Journal of Jan Sangh?

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: A memorandum is pending before the Prime Minister to take action.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: I do not know why I should be asked to comment on press reports.

SHRI I. D. SINGH: In view of the fact that certain incriminating documents have been recovered from the house of Rajgarhias, has Sitaram Rajgarhia been arrested. If not, why?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: I do not have information whether he has been arrested or not. . .

(Interruptions)

As I said earlier, a lot of documents have been recovered and they are being examined. Then we would ascertain what the offences involved are in this, whether violation of income-tax or any other thing is involved. Then action will be taken.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, now please sit

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमन्, मेरा प्वाइन्ट ऑफ ऑर्डर है और वह यह है कि तमाम जगह इस बात की जानकारी है बिहार भर में कि उनकी गिरफ्तारी श्री एन० एन० मिश्र के कहने पर रोक दी गई है। यह बात सब लोग जानते हैं और वह बात किसी से छिपी नहीं है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, please sit down. This is no point of order.

श्री राजनारायण : आप इस बात को क्यों छिपाते हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, please sit down.

श्री राजनारायण : श्री करपूरी ठाकुर को गिरफ्तार कर के जेल में भेज दिया गया है, लेकिन इनको नहीं पकड़ा गया है।

down. Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, a short question.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, we are glad and our Prime Minister should be congratulated that we are not making atom bombs. Otherwise, those also will be smuggled out.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, please put the question.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, I said we should congratulate the Government for not manufacturing atom bombs.

I should like to know how is it that the hon. Minister does not care to ask the Bihar Government as to Whether this gentleman, Mr. Raghoria, or whatever it is, a very notorious person in that region, has been arrested or is being arrested. Why that enquiry was not made before the Minister comes and answers this question? Is he a small pick-pocket in Bara Bazar?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Well, Sir, I said that some documents have been recovered after the raids. Those documents are being examined and then only it would be clear as to what offences have been committed and what legal action should be taken against them.

Well, Sir, with your permission, I would also like to refer to the observations made by Shri Rajnarain regarding Shri L. N. Mishra. These are most wild allegations and I do not think that they deserve any attention.

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमन्, देखिये, मैं अपनी आंखों से देख रहा हूँ कि मिर्घा साहब इस सवाल का जवाब नहीं देना चाहते हैं। यही हमारा प्वाइन्ट ऑफ ऑर्डर है जो हम कहना चाहते हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, this is no point of order.

श्री राजनारायण : जब उन्होंने कहा तब उन्होंने खंडन किया। हम चाहते हैं कि इस बारे में इन्क्वायरी की जाय कि क्या एल० एन० मिश्र के इशारे पर उनको गिरफ्तार नहीं किया गया?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, Mr. Rajnarain, this is no point of order. Yes, next question

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमन्, यह सत्य बात है जो मैं कह रहा हूँ।

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY: Sir, I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have not called you. I have called the next question.

Appointment of Commissions under the Commission of Inquiry Act, 1952

*95. SHRI BHOLA PRASAD:

SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA:
SHRI I. D. SINGH: SHRI
BHUPESH GUPTA: SHRI S. G.
SARDESAI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS

be pleased to -state:

(a) the number of commission so far appointed by the Central Government under the Commission of Inquiry Act, 1952;

(b) the number of cases in which the Central Government have refused the appointment of commissions under the said Act and what were the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government had ordered any inquiry under the Commission of Inquiry act without looking into the allegations charges to find out whether there was any *prima facie* case;

(d) if so, what is the number of such cases;

(e) whether there is any proposal under Governments consideration to appoint a commission under the Act to investigate the charges levelled against Ministers and high officials without any preliminary examination by Government of the allegations and by allowing the same to be made directly to the commission; and

(f) if the answer to part (e) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) According to the information available, 32 Commissions have been appointed by the Government of India under the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952 till January, 1974.

(b) Commissions of Inquiry under the AM are appointed after Government has satisfied itself that the matter is of public importance and is of the view, after looking into the allegations, that *prima facie*

†Th<^ question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Sanat Kumar Raha.