

irrigate 2 lakh acres in the area. Besides this, I agree with the Member that we must take up some more projects especially of the medium type which will cover that area.

SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BHANDARI : But you have suspended that.

DR. K. L. RAO : Nothing was suspended. Only question is of money. We are aware of the project there. It is only a question of money to be provided in the Fourth Plan.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA : Is he aware that in Bihar particularly in the area known as Chota-Nagpur Plateau and its Extension no major irrigation schemes are possible nor minor irrigation schemes of the conventional types and some of these areas have vast underground resources of water and they can be tapped only by diamond drilling and no diamond drilling machine or very few of them are available with the Government of Bihar? In this situation may I know if the Government of India are trying to solve the problem of these where there are vast underground water resources but because of the rocky foundation tube-well drilling is not possible? What do the Government propose in regard to such areas?

DR. K. L. RAO : It is true that the Chota-Nagpur Plateau has possibility for big projects and it is quite true that we have to exploit the ground water but that is a subject dealt with by the Ministry of Agriculture and I would request him to address that Ministry.

SHRIMATI LALITHA (RAJAGO-PALAN) : I had tabled a question about the appointment of an All-India Irrigation Commission and I would like to draw the attention of the House through you that since the British regime they have not appointed an All-India Irrigation Commission. I tabled a question and the Minister said that it will be appointed soon. I would like to know from the Minister whether it has been appointed and, if so, what is its programme regarding the development of an irrigation programme as well as stepping up of agricultural production. If it has not been appointed, what is the reason for the delay?

DR. K. L. RAO : That is a question apart from this but I would however submit that I am as anxious as the

Member to see that a Commission is set in motion. Unfortunately it has not been possible to fix up the personnel and the matter is under very serious effort and I hope it will be set up in the New Year.

SHRIMATI LALITHA (RAJAGO-PALAN) : I have been getting this reply for the past two Sessions.

PERMANENT MAGNETS, BOMBAY

*748. SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question No. 332, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd December, 1968, and state :

(a) the name of the officer who held the shares of the Permanent Magnets, Bombay; and

(b) the circumstances in which the shares were acquired by him?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI) : (a) and (b) The officer is Shri V. Y. Tonpe who still holds the shares. He subscribed to twenty-five equity shares of Rs. 100 each in Permanent Magnets Ltd. and purchased these shares as an investor. He paid the application money of Rs. 625 in January, 1961 for the said twenty-five equity shares. He was allotted twenty-five equity shares in March 1961 whereupon he paid a further sum of Rs. 625 same month. On two subsequent calls, Shri Tonpe paid Rs. 625 in October, 1961 and another equivalent sum in August, 1962. He paid in all Rs. 2,500 for twenty-five fully paid-up shares of Rs. 100 each. His present holding after taking into account the bonus shares issued by the Company in 1967 is twenty-eight shares.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : According to the disclosure of the Finance Minister. Mr. Tonpe, Private Secretary to the Finance Minister, was already a shareholder in November, 1960. May I know, Sir, whether in this connection his attention has been drawn to a very important note sent from his office—Finance Minister's Office—to one Mr. D. K. Ganguli, Private Secretary to the Secretary, Commerce and Industry Ministry? Sir, I quote the note :

"F.M's note No. CGI/46(352)-2-60

Finance Minister's Office.

The Permanent Magnets Ltd. have been given a licence for import of capital goods. They have been asked to furnish a list of capital goods. They have therefore furnished a few lists in the past as and when particular machinery was required by them for erection. This is yet another list. The list is to be approved and returned to him. Out of three items held over by the Development Wing one has since been cleared. The other two may be cleared as these are not available in the country.

V. Y. Tonpe,

P.S. to F.M.

4-12-1961

Now may I know? This is clearly a note by the Finance Minister and sent from his own office and this is what it says, which I have read out. Mr. Chairman, I should like to know now from the Finance Minister one thing. In the course of the debate in this House the Finance Minister said that he would be responsible. He said on the 29th of August, 1968, when we discussed this matter in this House :

"Therefore I would not plead that if my Private Secretary did anything I was not responsible for it."

And then in the course of the thing he said that he would own up responsibility for every act of Mr. Tonpe. Now, Sir, here I find the note is by the Finance Minister himself. It says at least that it is F.M.'s note from the Finance Minister's office, and it is signed by the Private Secretary; Mr. Tonpe signs it as Private Secretary to the Finance Minister and he asks one Mr. Ganguli to do the needful. I should like to know in this connection whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that after having been a shareholder he was also writing even earlier on the 23rd of June, 1961, to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. This was revealed in this House on the 16th of December in the written reply given to my question by Mr. Qureshi where he said,

"The Chief Controller of Imports and Exports received a letter dated the 23rd June, 1961, from Shri V. Y. Tonpe, Private Secretary to the Finance Minister, forwarding a copy of a letter dated 20th June, 1961, from M/s. Permanent Magnets Ltd., Bombay."

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA: Mr. Yajee says that this is Rajnarain Sabha, not Rajya Sabha. Now I conclude that this is Bhupesh Gupta and three others' Sabha.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I hope I will not be disturbed. I have put before the House the text of a note sent by the Finance Minister's office to the Private Secretary to the Secretary, Commerce and Industry Ministry, one Mr. Ganguli. I have read it out. Let him deny it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is your question?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : May I know how then the Finance Minister can deny that it was not his office, that he and his office and Mr. Tonpe were not advancing the interests of Permanent Magnets of which the managing director was Mr. Kantilal Desai? I should like to know. Then I will ask another question.

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI : Sir, I had said even then and I say it also now that my office has been expediting the other offices for delays wherever it happens, and this is not an isolated case. If he held shares in the company, it did not mean anything more than that he had invested in, it. He may have invested in others also. And the Finance Minister also might have some investments. That does not mean that small investments should not be made by an officer, or that he should not write officially as he does in other cases. That position I do not grant. There is nothing wrong done in this. And also I find that only on the 16th December the Commerce Minister was asked this question and, he had stated :

"Both these requests were pursued according to the policy in force and were acceded to after due processing."

In the normal course what is done is only to expedite so that delays are removed. There is no favour being shown.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, the Commerce Minister in his reply on the 26th of December did not disclose the fact in relation to this letter. This reply related to other matters where he asked for some change in the rules, etc. This is an entirely different matter, this note from the Finance Minister's office.

Sir, I find the Commerce Minister suppressed this thing. And why did the Finance Minister not reveal this fact when we were saying so many things on the floor of the House and say that, "Yes, my office had been sending notes and that I myself caused the notes to be sent to other Ministries in order to expedite this matter? Why, Sir,—I should like to know—Mr. Kantilal Desai, as managing director, instead of directly approaching the Commerce and Industry Ministry, or the Chief Controller, or other, why did he take to the method of using the Finance Minister's office to pressurize or to approach the other Ministries of the Government of India? Sir, I would like to have a clear explanation because this note establishes quite clearly, the note that I have read out establishes quite clearly the fact that the Finance Minister was directly using his office for advancing the business interests of his son, Mr. Kantilal Desai.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA : Sir, before the hon. Minister replies I would like to put to you what is the question, what is the ambit of the question and what is the ambit of the supplementaries. It is not again an inquisition against some person or some Minister. The question is asked what is the extent of the share-holding of a particular officer here in the Permanent Magnets Ltd., Bombay.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : These are the considerations. He is taking the time of the House, Sir.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA : They can raise all this later—the Appropriation Bills are coming; the Supplementary Demands are coming; other issues are coming; they can raise it then. But can they put these supplementaries within the confines of this Question? They can't.

SHRI GODEY MURAHARI: Why not?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I did not put it that the shares were given for this service.

SHRI GODEY MURAHARI: Just because it happens to be the Finance Minister do you mean to say that no supplementaries can be asked? (*Interruptions*) If the Finance Minister is guiltless, he should squarely face the questions put.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: But why is Mr. B. K. P. Sinha taking our time? I raise it as my privilege, Sir. The House has been denied the information, which should have been given by the Commerce Minister or the Home Minister or the Finance Minister in the course of the debate on an earlier occasion. And now I have confronted the House with the text of this letter by the Finance Minister, and even then I am not to be allowed to put a question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have put the question.

SHRI GODEY MURAHARI: Let him answer.

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI : May I say that I do not want to raise the question of relevance in this matter at all because he wants to make an allegation personally against me. Therefore I do not want to avoid it in any way. But my hon. friend does not seem to realise that, if my Private Secretary writes, he writes always from the Finance Minister's office. There is nothing new in it; it is done everywhere. (*Interruptions*) Not only that; it is written to all offices.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : It is F.M's note I referred to, the one which was sent.

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI : I do not know where he got it. I can say in the first instance that I have not seen it. But if it is from the Finance Minister's office and is F.M's note, then it will be signed by the Finance Minister; it will not be signed by any one else, and he himself says that it is signed by Mr. Tonpe as Private Secretary to the Finance Minister. Therefore I do not know what he wants to bring out. The hon. Member feels frustrated that he is not able to find anything in this matter. Therefore he goes on raising issues after issues which have no meaning in my view.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, this should be discussed.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA : Sir, I want to put a question.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Why is he taking the time?

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA : He is also entitled to put a question.

SHRI GODEY MURAHARI : Sir, I would like to know how many licences were expedited like this during the course of that year because that would clear much of the misunderstanding.

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI : Unless a notice is received I cannot reply.

SHRI GODEY MURAHARI : You are not prepared to give a reply?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI : How can I say? I have not made any research of it. There must be many cases.

SHRI GODEY MURAHARI : You can take your own time but when you reply next time please give us this information as otherwise it would only prove that undue influence was used from the Finance Minister's office to get this thing expedited.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : May I know as to how many other cases were there, may be in the same year or may be in the subsequent years, when the Finance Ministry took this special care about expediting the cases? It is always known in the country that it is the Finance Ministry that is the cause of delay in every case. This is absolutely a new idea given by the Finance Ministry that they have been trying to expedite cases. May I know even in recent years how many cases have been expedited by Finance Ministry?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI : My hon. friend will have to know many new things that are happening. These things are happening. If he wants to know how many cases were there in the last one year I can certainly find out and tell him.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Ten minutes are over.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, we beg of you to give us half an hour. I am entitled to bring a privilege motion for culpable suppression of truth from the House. I shall produce more documents to prove to the hilt that the Finance Minister exercised...

SHRI ABID ALI : Sir, yesterday he assured you not to behave like this.

EXPENDITURE ON NATIONAL LEPROSY CONTROL PROGRAMME

*749. SHRI M. K. MOHTA : Will the Minister of HEALTH, FAMILY PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the expenditure incurred by Government on the National Leprosy Control Programme during the current year;

(b) the results achieved; and

(c) whether Government propose to include the programme in the Fourth Five Year Plan as a centrally sponsored scheme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, FAMILY PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI B. S. MURTHY) :

(a) A sum of Rs. 20.00 lakhs was provided for the current financial year for implementation of the National Leprosy Control Programme. It is not possible to indicate the actual expenditure incurred by the State/Union Territory Governments on this programme, as according to the existing procedure, assistance to the State Governments is not released scheme-wise, but in lump for a group of schemes.

(h) 61 Survey, Education and Treatment Centres have been set up in the country during 1968-69. 1.3 million additional population has been covered 30125 new cases recorded, and 29415 new cases put under treatment.

(c) Yes, Sir.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : In view of the national importance of the leprosy control programme does the Government have plans to increase their expenditure on this programme in the coming years and secondly what are the Government's plans to educate the general public against the prejudices that exist against leprosy?

SHRI B. S. MURTHY : It is indeed a very serious problem as according to certain estimates the total population at risk is about 300 million and it is proposed that in the Fourth Plan greater allocation should be made and all the aspects like treatment, rehabilitation and also educating the society about people's attitude towards this disease, are contemplated to be tackled.