

हार था, दूसरा हार नहीं था। यह कहना कि हार बदला गया, यह बड़े अविवेक की बात है—इतना ही मैं कहूंगा, उनकी नकल मैं नहीं करना चाहता।

SHRI A. D. MANI: Sir, this point has been raised by my friend, Mr. Rajnarain, so many times that I would like the Finance Minister to tell us what the rules are regarding the receipts of costly presents by dignitaries like the Prime Minister. My recollection is that in the United Kingdom, Lady Churchill received a very costly present from Stalin. That present was recently stolen. She advertised in the papers saying, "It is a very costly present. It has got a memento value for me. It has been stolen." But nobody asked in the House of Commons that she should be asked to deposit it in the treasury and so on. Further, may I ask the Finance Minister whether there is any obligation on the part of the relative of the Prime Minister to deposit any present received when he or she might have gone on a visit abroad?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: The hon. Member has missed my reply in Hindi. I have said already that these rules are not binding on or do not apply at all to private parties and that the present Prime Minister then was absolutely a private party.

श्री मोरारजी मुराहरि : मंत्री महोदय कहते हैं कि the present Prime Minister was a private party. कोई प्राइवेट पार्टी को इस तरह उपहार नहीं देता है (Interruptions.) और श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी उस वक्त के प्रधान मंत्री, जवाहरलाल नेहरू, की बेटी थीं; कोई ऐसी कमोडिटी नहीं थी जिसका कोई रिश्ता नहीं था उस वक्त के प्रधान मंत्री से अगर कोई उपहार उनको दिया गया तो इसी नाते दिया गया था जब उनकी बेटी उनके साथ गई थी या जब दूसरे डिगनीटरी आते थे तो क्योंकि ये प्रधान मंत्री की बेटी थीं

इसलिए उपहार देते थे। इसलिए मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि अगर इस तरह के उपहार उनको दिए जाते हैं जो प्रधान मंत्री के रिश्तेदार हैं, प्रधान मंत्री के घर में रहते हैं तो जो नियम सरकारी अफसरों और मंत्रियों के लिए लागू हैं वे उन पर क्यों नहीं लागू किए जाते ?

श्री मोरारजी आर० देसाई : जवाब तो मैंने दे दिया मगर मैं आप से समझना चाहता हूँ कि कितने समय तक और कितने सालों तक यह सवाल बराबर उठाया जायेगा जिसके लिए कई बार जवाब दिया जा चुका है। इसको बार बार इस तरीके से उठाना कहाँ तक मनुसिब है, यह मैं आप पर छोड़ता हूँ।

TENDERS FOR CONSTRUCTIONS AT ASHOKA HOTELS LTD., NEW DELHI

*328. SHRI JAGAT NARAIN:
SHRI TRILOKI SINGH:
SHRI SUNDAR SINGH
BHANDARI:

Will the Minister of WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether tenders were called for the construction of an Annexe and a Revolving Tower to Ashoka Hotels, Ltd., New Delhi in the month of April, 1967;

(b) the names of the firms from whom tenders were received; and

(c) the name of the firm whose tender was accepted and for what amount?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SARDAR IQBAL SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) (1) Messrs. Tirath Ram Ahuja Private Limited.

(c) The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Jagat Narain.

(2) Messrs. C. Lyall and Company.

(3) Bhaj Sunder Dass Sardar Singh Private Limited.

(4) Messrs. Uttam Singh Duggal and Company Private Limited.

(5) Mehta Teja Singh and Company.

(c) The work has been awarded to Messrs. Tirath Ram Ahuja Private Limited for Rs. 87,47,570.

श्री जगन्नाथरायण : क्या वजीर साहब बतलायेंगे कि जो यह टेंडर लिया गया था अशोक होटल के रिवाल्विंग टावर और एनक्से के लिए, क्या वह वाक्यांश अखबारों में छापा गया था या चुने हुए चंद ठेकेदारों को बुलाया गया था? मेरा पहला सवाल यह है।

दूसरा सवाल यह है कि जब यह टेंडर तीरथराम आहुजा के नाम निकला तो क्या उस वक्त जिन लोगों ने टेंडर दिए थे—और जिनके नाम वजीर साहब ने पढ़े हैं उनके नुमाइन्दों ने क्या यह एतराज किया था कि तीरथराम आहुजा एंड कम्पनी का जो टेंडर है वह इनकम्प्लीट है। उसमें उन्होंने चन्द शर्तें लगाई थीं कि अगर ये शर्तें पूरी की जायेंगी तभी हम टेंडर को लेंगे और अशोक होटल की एनक्से को बनायेंगे? यह मैं वजीर साहब से जानना चाहता हूँ।

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO: Sir, it is true that open tender enquiries were not issued. In cases where the job is of a special nature or it is a rush job—that means, where it has to be executed in a short period—it is open to the CPWD to issue limited tender enquiries. In this particular case, we advised the Ashoka Hotels to issue limited tender enquiries to twenty-four contractors. And my friend, the hon. Shri Uttam Singh Duggai who was not being issued tender notices for some years past saw me. I told him that he would also get a tender notice. But at the same time, I made him understand

that the mere issue of a tender notice did not imply that his tender would be accepted.

Sir, tenders were received from six persons out of twenty-four. Out of the six, one tender was rejected because it did not conform to the rules. Out of the five tenders, the tender of Messrs. Tirath Ram Ahuja Private Limited was accepted.

The second point that the tender of Messrs. Tirath Ram Ahuja Private Limited was incomplete is not entirely correct. The question was about the Revolving Tower. The architects themselves were not sure about the design. The tender of Messrs. Tirath Ram Ahuja Private Limited observed that the design was not very clear and that they were not able to quote for those items of work. All the tenders were sent to the consulting engineers and architects and they said that it was not incomplete.

श्री जगन्नाथरायण : अभी वजीर साहब ने कहा कि टेंडर कम्प्लीट था। मैं उनका अटेंशन टेंडर का जो क्लॉज 14 है उसकी तरफ दिलाना चाहता हूँ।

Tender clause 14: "All tenders in which any of the prescribed conditions are not fulfilled or are incomplete in any respect are liable to be rejected."

जो टेंडर भरा तीरथ राम आहुजा प्राइवेट लिमिटेड ने उसमें उन्होंने जो लिखा वह यह था :—

"If any point mentioned in this letter is at variance with the tender documents mentioned above, the point in this letter will prevail."

उन्होंने अपनी शर्तों पर यह टेंडर कबूल करवाया सरकार से, अशोक होटल वालों से। कहते हैं कि टेंडर कम्प्लीट था, टेंडर कम्प्लीट नहीं था, उन्होंने अपनी शर्तें मनवाई।

दूसरी बात यह है कि इस अशोक होटल के जो चेयरमैन हैं क्या उन्होंने इस कम्पनी से अपना बंगला बनाया था बहुत सस्ते दामों पर, बहुत सस्ते रेट पर, इसलिए उन्होंने कहा कि इनको यह काम दिया जाय ?

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO: Sir, as I said earlier, this tender of Messrs. Tirath Ram Ahuja Private Limited was not incomplete in the opinion of the architects and the consulting engineers. Therefore, the tender was taken into consideration, and the conditions imposed were not accepted.

Regarding the other insinuation that the Chairman got a bungalow constructed by this contractor, I am sorry that such an insinuation should have been made and I strongly repudiate it.

श्री जगन्नाथरायण : वह कहें कि उन्होंने बंगला नहीं बनाया । मैं डेफिनिटली कहता हूँ कि उन्होंने बंगला बनाया चेयरमैन का ।

(No reply)

SHRI TRILOKJ SINGH: Sir, the hon. Minister has just now said that according to the Architects the tender submitted by Tirath Ram Ahuja Private Limited was complete. May I know, Sir, what were the quotations for items 15, 16 and 17 given by Messrs. Tirath Ram Ahuja & Co.?

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO: As I said, Sir, they did not quote for four items of R. C. C. works which related to the work above the third floor near the revolving tower. This question was examined, by the architects and the architects said that they themselves were not definite about the design of the power, and, therefore, that part of the tender was not considered to be incomplete.

SHRI TRILOK SINGH: May I know, Sir, from the hon. Minister if within a period of two hours of the opening of tenders and the decision of the Board of Directors an agreement was entered into with Messrs.

Tirath Ram Ahuja & Co. for the completion of this work? If so, what were the reasons for this undue haste in the exchange of letters between this firm and the authorities concerned?

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO: As I said earlier, it is a rush job. The work has to be completed by the end of October/November because this Extension to the Ashoka Hotel is intended to meet the requirements of the U.N.C.T.A.D. Conference which is meeting in Delhi on the 1st February. That is the reason why we had to rush through the whole affair.

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारा : श्रीमान्, अशोक होटल के जिस निर्माण के काम का ठेका करीब 87 लाख रुपये का है और जो आपने यह तक देने का प्रयत्न किया है कि चूंकि काम जल्दी करना था इसलिए पब्लिक टेंडर इनवाइट नहीं किया गया, तो मैं यह जानना चाहूंगा कि जब पब्लिक टेंडर इनवाइट नहीं किया गया और टेंडर्स मांगे गये, तो थर्ड फ्लोर के भी सारे स्पेसिफिकेशन्स देने में क्यों कमी रह गई और अगर मैसर्स तीरथ राम अहुजा ने इसी के कारण टेंडर नहीं दिया था, तो बाकी के जिन चार कांटेक्टर्स के टेंडर प्राप्त हुये, उनमें उसके लिये कुछ आंकड़े दिये गये थे या नहीं दिये गये थे या सभी कांटेक्टर्स के सामने इस अनिश्चितता की समान कठिनाई थी और अगर बाकी टेंडर्स ने, कांटेक्टर्स ने, अपने आंकड़े दिये, तो उनको ब्रुश एसाइड करके मैसर्स तीरथ राम अहुजा के इनकम्प्लीट टेंडर को, जो कि टेंडर की कंडीशंस के अनुसार माने ही नहीं जाने चाहिये थे, उसको क्यों स्वीकार किया ? यह मेरा एक सवाल है ।

दूसरे यह कि यह सारा मामला जैसा कि बना है और जैसा कि एक माननीय सदस्य महोदय ने आरोप भी लगाया कि यह सवाल इतना सरल और इतना साफ नहीं है जैसा कि मंत्री महोदय बताने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं । यहां पर टेंडर्स स्वीकार करने

बाले जो लोग हैं, उनके सम्बन्ध में पहले भी समय समय पर इस बात की गिकायतें आई हैं। मिनिस्ट्री आफ वर्क्स एण्ड हाउसिंग में एक श्री प्रेम क्रिशन हैं, इन्स्टीमेटन कमेटी ने उनके ऊपर आरोप लगाया है कि जब वह फारिन इम्बेसी में थे, तो उन्होंने चांदी के बरतनों को मिसएप्रोप्रिएट किया और बहुत स्ट्रक्चर्स उन पर पास किये गये हैं, वहीं आदमी यहां टेंडर मंजूर करने वालों में शामिल हैं और इस कारण से एक बड़ा झड़ी डील हुआ है। मैं मान सकता हूं कि अभी तक मंत्री महोदय की नॉटिस में ये जानकारियां नहीं थीं, परन्तु अब जब किये जानकारियां उनके सामने लाई जा रही हैं—श्री रत्नम् के बारे में एक आरोप लगाया गया है और मैंने एक दूसरे सदस्य के बारे में उनके पुराने रिकार्ड के आधार पर और एस्टीमेट कमेटी ने उन पर जो छीटाकसी की है, उस आधार पर जब कि यहां आरोप लगाया और इस संदर्भ में कि तारय राम आहूजा के टेंडर इनकम्प्लीट थे और इनकम्प्लीट होते हुये भी बड़ी हैस्टिली रश वर्क में श्रीवर रश तरीके से केवल दो घंटों में जो स्वीकार कर लिया गया—तो क्या मंत्री महोदय इस टेंडर के सारे प्रश्न को दुबारा अपने सामने विचार करने के लिये रखेंगे और इस सारे काम की जांच करवायेंगे।

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO: I am sorry, Sir, again this hon. Member referred to the name of an individual, Mr. Prem Krishen, who is the Secretary of the Ministry of Works and Housing. He had nothing to do with the finalisation of tenders. I am sorry, Sir, that an extraneous matter should have been referred to in the supplementaries. Nevertheless, I would submit that though the other contractors have quoted for the whole items of work connected with the revolving tower, the architects felt and still feel today that since this sort of tower has never been constructed in India by anybody, their design of

the tower is not yet firm. Therefore, those items were excluded and the rest of the items were taken into consideration and the tender was accepted.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA: Sir, it appears that the Government has now-decided to invest more than Rs. 87 lakhs for the extension of Ashoka Hotel. While appreciating the effort of the Government to accommodate more tourists, may I know, Sir, what is the need to having such a revolving tower for the Ashoka Hotel? It is not that the foreign tourists come to this country to see a revolving tower. They come here to see some historical and archaeological monuments. Why are we investing that much of huge amount in such revolving towers? Has the Government thought of priorities in investments? Was it not possible for the Government to invest such amounts for housing purposes where the people have no houses to reside? What is this policy of the Government, may I ask?

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO: It is not the Government that is investing in this Hotel. It is the Ashoka Hotels Ltd.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA: It is in the public sector. The Government may not be directly involved. But is it not the hon. Minister who is responsible for it? How can he escape the responsibility.

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO: May I say, Sir, that there are hotels in the public sector also? The Ashoka Hotels Ltd, is a public sector undertaking. This Hotel has to cater to the needs of tourists and we expect a sufficient number of tourists in the country. Should we prevent the Hotels in the public sector simply because they are in the public sector and, therefore, they should not expand their activities?

SHRI M. M. DHARIA: Sir, I have stated in my question that I appreciate the efforts of the Government to

accommodate foreign tourists. But I said that there is no need for having a Revolving tower in the Ashoka Hotels. The Ashoka Hotel is in the public sector and is under the control of the Government. Is it not the duty of the Government to see that we invest according to priorities for some productive purposes or for the poorer sections? What is the need of this Revolving Tower?

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO: That is not lost sight of. There is provision for housing also.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: In connection with the supplementary, Sir, we all want tourist attractions here and efforts should be made. Do I understand that unless a revolving tower is there in the Ashoka Hotel and at so heavy cost, India would lose her tourist attraction. I should like to know how many countries in Asia have got this kind of thing, or how many historical cities have got this kind of thing, a revolving tower? I do not know whether in this revolving tower people will live or revolve or do something else. I do not know what is that for. If it was a question of accommodation for the tourists, there are other ways of meeting the demand at a much lesser cost. But, Sir, is it not a fact that this is an austentatious extension of certain facilities to foreign tourists which neither they desire perhaps nor do they need. Some bright idea has come in the mind of the Government which is being sought to be implemented in this manner. When we are so short of funds and economy is being advised by all quarters, may I know, Sir, how is it that in such a situation this Government has chosen to construct a revolving tower on top of the Ashoka Hotel at so heavy a cost as Rs. 87 lakhs?

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO: This Rs. 87 lakhs and odd is the entire amount. All this amount does not go towards the construction of this tower. A major portion of this money goes towards the construction of the Hotel to provide 300 more beds.

DR. (MRS.) MANGLADEVI TALWAR: The hon. Minister has just stated that they accepted the incomplete tenders of Messrs. Tirath Ram & Co. (Private) Ltd. because they were in an extreme hurry to finish the work by October or November. But, Sir, if the architects had not made up their minds as to what type of tower it is going to be, apart from Mr. Dharia's question whether it is worthwhile to invest so much money in the revolving tower when we are going in for economy, I would like to know what was the hurry in accepting this incomplete tender when there was not even a complete plan with the architects?

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO: Sir, I have already answered that this is not mainly for the revolving tower . . .

(Interruption) MR. CHAIRMAN:

Please allow me to conduct the business . . .

(Interruption) SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, I would submit that this is a serious matter; nearly one crore of rupees is involved. You would expect us to be vigilant. Members from all sides of the House are interested in this question and I am sure this merits our discussion. We can save Rs. 1 crore. Sir, we do not know even where this bright idea of revolving tower originated. We should be given all particulars about it—who originated the idea, how it came, how it was accepted, in what stage, when, tenders were invited, why this hurry in settling this tender business and what is the opinion of the present Finance Minister and the previous Minister. All these things should be laid on the Table of the House . . .

(Interruption) SHRI JAGANNATH RAO: May I submit that when the Board of Directors of the Ashoka Hotels accepted this tender of Tirath Ram Ahuja and Company, it came to me for approval; I met the Finance Minister and had consultations with him and I directed

the Ashoka Hotels Board of Directors to ask the contractor to reduce it by Rs. 2,20,000 and it was agreed to by him. He became the lowest tenderer.

श्री गोडे मूराहरि : मैं मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहूंगा, पहली बात तो यह है कि जो रिवाल्विंग टावर है, इसकी जरूरत हिन्दुस्तान के और किसी होटल को है या नहीं और इस बारे में पहले तो यह सरकार निर्धारित करे कि हिन्दुस्तान जैसे गरीब देश में रिवाल्विंग टावर एक लगजरी है जो डाऊटफुल व्यैल्यू की है क्योंकि मैं जानता हूँ कि रिवाल्विंग टावर कैसे होते हैं। वियना में है जहाँ पर बहुत टूरिस्ट जाते हैं। वियना के होटलों में रिवाल्विंग टावर मैंने देखा है। लेकिन हिन्दुस्तान में रिवाल्विंग टावर का कहां तक उपयोग होगा मैं नहीं समझता क्योंकि सबसे पहले रिवाल्विंग टावर से क्या देखा जायेगा इसका पता चलना चाहिये। रिवाल्विंग टावर से क्या देखेंगे दिल्ली की गलियाँ देखेंगे। इस चीज के लिये इतनी बड़ी रकम सरकार की ओर से खर्च की जाय और मंत्री महोदय यहां आकर कहें कि सरकार को इससे कोई मतलब नहीं है, यह तो अशोक होटल एक पब्लिक लिमिटेड कंपनी है। वह टूरिस्ट ट्रेड को बढ़ाना चाहते हैं और कहते हैं उनको अधिकार है चाहे जैसे पैसा खर्च करें। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ क्या हिन्दुस्तान में पब्लिक लिमिटेड कंर्सर्न का इसी तरह दुर्व्यवहार होगा और हिन्दुस्तान के पैसे का इसी तरह दुर्व्यवहार करने की इजाजत सरकार देगी? यदि ऐसा हुआ तो फिर इस सरकार को हमें निकालना पड़ेगा, इस सरकार के खिलाफ आवाज उठानी पड़ेगी यह एक बुनियादी बात हो जाती है उनके उत्तर से यहीं मालूम होता है कि उनको कोई कंट्रोल नहीं है अपनी पब्लिक सेक्टर कंपनियों के ऊपर, उनके मैनेजमेंट चाहे जैसा जैसे चाहे पब्लिक फंड का दुर्व्यवहार कर सकता है। इसलिये सभापति महोदय, मैं जानना चाहता हूँ आपके जरिये कि इस तरह

के रिवाल्विंग टावर की क्या जरूरत पड़ी और साथ साथ इस ढंग से इस कान्ट्रेक्ट की देने की क्या जरूरत थी? इसमें साफ लगता है कि धांधलियाँ हुई हैं, कई आफिसरों ने पैसा बनाया है। इसमें श्री प्रेम कृष्ण का नाम आया है और श्री रत्नम् का नाम आया है, जो चेयरमैन अशोक होटल है, उन्होंने मकान भी बनाया है। अगर यह सही है तो सरकार को चाहिये कि पूरी तहकीकात करके जो भी आफिसर इस कान्ट्रेक्ट के लिये रेस्पान्सिबल होगा उसके ऊपर कार्यवाही हो और साथ साथ अशोक होटल के जिन लोगों ने डिजीजिन लिया कि रिवाल्विंग टावर होना चाहिये उसके ऊपर भी इन्क्वायरी कराये और कार्यवाही करें।

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO: As I stated earlier, the cost of the revolving tower will be between Rs. 5 and Rs. 10 lakhs. Two more restaurants are to be constructed to cater to the needs of the boarders who live there. I have already answered this question, but the hon. Members have repeated the same thing.

SHRI G. MURAHARI: There is no answer for it ... *(Interruption).*

(Several hon. Members stood up.)

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, we all of us want a discussion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It looks as if all sections of the House, after exhausting so many speakers, still want to talk about this matter. There seems to be a great feeling in this matter. I shall grant one hour's discussion later.

AMENDMENT OF PENSIONERS' ACT

*91. SHRIMATI LALITHA RAJA-GOPALANJ

SHRI D. THENGARI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state whether the AH

•{•Transferred from the 26th May, 1967.

t-The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Lalitha (Rajagopalan).