

all the types of dances and music in India?

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: From time to time, we send delegations to outside countries. This is a refreshing suggestion that has come from the hon. Member that we should send them in such a manner that the pattern of the delegation represents the different types of dance and music in the country. We shall consider it.

*349. [The questioner (Sardar Ram Singh) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 2731-32 infra.]

RAID ON OFFICES OF INDUSTRIES

*350. **SHRI NIREN GHOSH:**†
SHRI ARJUN ARORA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether officers of the Special Police Establishment and Central Bureau of Investigation raided the offices of a group of industries at Kanpur on December 6, 7 and 8, 1966, and January 2, 3 and 4, 1967; and

(b) if so whether any incriminating material was found during the raids?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Searches of the premises of certain industrial establishments in Kanpur were conducted by the S.P.E. Branch of the Central Bureau of Investigation on the 6th and 7th December, 1966 and from the 2nd January to the 5th January, 1967.

(b) In the course of these searches several documents, records and account books were seized. Their scrutiny is in progress.

†The question was actually asked on the floor the House by Shri Niren Ghosh.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: May I ask, Sir, whether this group of industries belong to Messrs. Ram Rattan Gupta & Co.? Now the Minister has said that incriminating documents have been found. Before this also there have been many cases of violation of income-tax laws and foreign exchange laws etc. In view of all these things, may I know whether the Government will take over this entire group of industries belonging to Messrs. Ram Rattan Gupta and appoint an authorised controller for that purpose?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: There is no point in unnecessarily widening the issue. Naturally, when certain allegations were made investigations were carried out and necessary searches were ordered and certain documents etc. were found. They are being scrutinised. At this stage of the investigation I cannot make any further statement about it.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Sir, the thing is, about other things also like violation of income-tax laws and foreign exchange violations, cases have come up before Parliament and it is surprising that so far no cases have been launched against this man. He has not only to be prosecuted but he ought to be put behind prison bars in order even to conduct the investigations properly because cases galore are coming up very often. Why is such action not taken?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: As far as this question is concerned, naturally I do not have information about what other investigations are going on behalf of the CBI. The question here was about searches on a particular day and I have no information about other cases. If the hon. Member has any information about other things I would certainly like to have it.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: No, Sir. Repeatedly in Parliament questions have been put and answered about Messrs. Lakshmi Rattan Cotton Mills

and also the subsidiary Lakshmi Rattan Engineering Works Faridabad, and so on. Is this not a fact?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: The hon. Member is unnecessarily confusing the issue I am dealing with the question asked about searches made on a particular day. Investigations are going on about this particular matter and these investigations will lead to their logical conclusions.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know if the residences of the Directors of this group of industries were also searched and if not, why not? Does not the Government know that the real incriminating material is not kept in the offices but in the residences and other secret places?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: My information is residences and the firm's offices were all searched.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know from the Government who actually made the allegation, from where this allegation originated so that they had to carry out the search? I would also like to know the nature of the allegations because we find that the S.P.E. comes into the picture, carries out certain searches and then the matters are hushed up. So I should like to know from the Home Minister as to what the nature of the allegations was which resulted in the S.P.E. being moved into action, at what stage really it is now, how the Government is going to handle it and whether anything was received from the income-tax and the company law authorities.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: I can give only general information; I have not got with me the source from which the information was received, etc. As a matter of fact it would be difficult to provide that information because it might possibly adversely affect the course of the investigation as well. There are three cases about this matter. Two of these cases relate

to Luxmi Rattan Engineering Works having deprived the Railways in collusion with certain railway officials of substantial wharfage charges which had accrued on certain consignments.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: The second?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: These are two cases, I said.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: All right; the third case?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: I am giving you the third case also. The third case relates to criminal breach of trust in respect of funds of Messrs. Luxmi Rattan Cotton Mills Ltd.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Now the question arises. The allegations were in regard to criminal breach of trust and surely the allegations were *prima facie* of such a nature as to impress upon the authorities that a search should be conducted. I should like to know when in such a case when section 420 is involved why the persons against whom the charges are made were not taken into custody. Why not? In other cases it is done but why in this particular case the persons concerned were not taken into custody. I should like to know. When investigations start two things take place. When here is such a strong case as to impress upon the Government that a search should be conducted, the person against whom such charges are made is taken into custody, then the searches are made and in the course of further investigations things are settled as to how the Government should tackle the case, prosecution and so on. Why in this case do we always find that Mr. Ram Rattan Gupta and others always get away from the clutches of the law? We are only being told that searches have taken place and certain papers have been obtained.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: I cannot interfere in the investigation. Hon. Member would realise that the stage of arresting the person concerned comes a little later. The whole thing is at the investigation stage and when searches were found necessary in the course of the investigation, searches were made and certain documents etc. are being examined and scrutinised; that is what I said. If in the course of the investigation it is found necessary to have some people arrested, certainly that matter will have to be considered by the Investigation Officer. I cannot give orders about it from here.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: Sir, may I . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question, Mr. Arjun Arora.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: Sir, I am as good a Member of this House as Mr. Bhupesh Gupta. He put three supplementaries and I have been allowed only one.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I refuse to argue the question. My mathematics is getting confused. There are people who think that three is five; there are people who think two is three.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: My name is there and I should be allowed to put my question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You were allowed a question. I called your name even without your standing up. Now I called your name to put your next question.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: I do not want to

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am very sorry.

*351. [The question was not, therefore, put by Shri Arjun Arora and, so was taken as withdrawn.]

ASSETS DECLARATIONS BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND MINISTERS

*352. SHRIMATI DEVAKI GOPIDAS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state whether the declarations of assets from Central Government officials and Ministers are strictly called for and scrutinised by Government and whether any periodical review or check-up is made on the basis of such declaration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): Officials of Central Government are required to submit declarations of assets at the time of their initial appointment and thereafter annually in accordance with the provisions of the Conduct Rules by which they are governed. These declarations are scrutinised and checked by the authorities receiving them.

Ministers of Central Government are required, under the Code of Conduct for Ministers, to submit declarations of assets at the time of taking office and thereafter annually by 31st March, to the Prime Minister, who sees them.

SHRIMATI DEVAKI GOPIDAS: May I know whether we have any procedure to call for the assets obtained within a short time in the name of the near and dear relations by the officials and Ministers?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: At present the assets of the officials are declared in a particular form. We are considering a new form under which all the assets and liabilities will have to be declared by the officials.

श्री राजनारायण : क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि 2 पर्ल नेवल्लेमेज, ईयरलोव्स, रिग स्टडेड विद पर्लस,