

पूछा जाय तो चेयर उस सवाल को समझ कर उस पर रोशनी भी डाल सकता है। इसी लिये मैंने अर्ज किया था।

श्री सभापति : अच्छा अब आप तथारीफ रखिये।

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: The Prime Minister announced that this was an estimate made on the basis of the expenditure of the Lok Sabha. But Parliament consist of two Houses, the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha. So the cost for one hour of Parliament's sitting should include the cost incurred on Rajya Sabha also. What is that amount? That we should be told. That is the information I seek. This is only a part answer and it is misleading.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: I made this enquiry only about Lok Sabha and as I said earlier, there was no sort of definite kind of research made. And may I take this opportunity to make it very clear that this remark about Rs. 2,000 being spent on each Minister is entirely false?

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE: May I know if by this remark the Prime Minister at Kanpur really wanted to convey to the people that parliamentary democracy in India is wasteful? Of late the Prime Minister has been indulging in verbal fireworks about the Press also. Is it one of her additional verbal fireworks about Parliament too?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: I think the hon. Member from the Opposition indulges in far more verbal fireworks than I can do.

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमन्, एक सवाल हम करना चाहते हैं। प्राइम मिनिस्टर कैसे कह सकती हैं कि फाल्स है जबकि प्राइम मिनिस्टर को जानकारी नहीं है कि एक मंत्री पर कितना खर्च होता है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Prof. Siddhantalankar.

श्री राजनारायण : उसलिये प्राइम मिनिस्टर का यह उत्तर एन्टायरली फाल्स है।

BLACKMARKET OF CEMENT ALLOTTED FOR DEFENCE WORKS

*548. **PROF. SATYAVRATA SIDDHANTALANKAR:** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 550 bags of cement allotted for defence works were recently sold in black-market at the rate of Rs. 22 per bag during transit from Adampur Doaba Airfield to Uchi Bassi village in Punjab; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to stop such thefts?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

550 bags of cement were issued by G. E. Adampur to the contractor Messrs. Mittal & Co. on 12 September, 1966 for executing Defence work. It appears that the contractor detailed a representative to accompany the two trucks carrying the cement from Adampur to Uchi Bassi. Since the trucks did not arrive at Uchi Bassi, the contractor lodged a report No. FIR 168 on 14th September, 1966 with Adampur Police Station under Section 406 I.P.C. The Police are stated to have recovered 190 bags of cement which have been returned to the contractor through Chief Judicial Magistrate, Jullundur. Government is not aware whether the cement in question or any portion thereof was sold in the black market and, if so, at what rate.

The price of cement issued by the MES to a contractor for the execution

of Defence project is adjusted against the running bills. The contractor is responsible for properly transporting the cement to the site of the work and storing the same under cover as required. Cement not utilised for Defence project has to be returned by the contractor at his own expense to the place of issue. Any loss of cement occurring on account of the negligence, fraud or collusion on the part of the contractor can be penalised by recovery at market rates and/or by departmental action including suspension, removal or black-listing and/or by appropriate criminal action depending on the facts of each case. The case in question is under Police investigation and action to be taken will depend *inter alia* on the final result thereof.

PROF. SATYAVRATA SIDDHANTALANKAR: According to the statement, 550 bags of cement were issued out of which 190 bags were recovered. The rest must have been sold at the blackmarket. The balance is 360 bags, and the Government have not been able to inform the House as to what happened to those 360 bags. Were they recovered or not?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: If they had been recovered I would have mentioned. I would also like to draw the attention of the hon. Member to the last sentence in the reply where it is said that the case in question is under police investigation and it will be for them to recover them or to account for them.

PROF. SATYAVRATA SIDDHANTALANKAR: Are the Government aware that much of the cement which is issued to contractors goes into the black market and many of the buildings which have been raised by these contractors . . .

SHRI A. D. MANI: For example?

PROF. SATYAVRATA SIDDHANTALANKAR: You go and meet the contractors.

. . . those buildings are raised out of the cement that they have stolen from the Government quota?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: It is very difficult for me to give any precise reply to a general sweeping statement of that type. Now there are bad people, there are good people and in cases where there is any leakage of material, whether it is cement or any other thing, appropriate action, where it is detected, is taken. And generally the engineering staff is there to supervise that the inputs are according to specifications.

PROF. SATYAVRATA SIDDHANTALANKAR: In 'The Hindustan Times' dated the 19th September, it is stated that this cement which was sold in the black market was sold at the rate of Rs. 22 per bag while the Government say that they are not aware of the price at which it was sold. Will the Government contradict such statements which appear in the Press and which malign the Government?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: We have not yet thought of starting a Department for issuing contradictions because so much appears in the newspapers that if we start contradicting each and everything, there will be precious little else that we can do except of course to contradict everything that appears in the newspapers. In this particular case, as I have said, the cement was issued to the contractor and the Government is not incurring any loss. The contractor sent one of his clerks with two lorries with the object of transporting it to the site where the work was going on but it did not reach there. But as I said the Government is not losing anything. The contractor has lodged a report against his own clerk who is still absconding and the lorry owners have been arrested. So it is a case which is under investigation.

श्री बिलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरडिया:
क्या श्रीमान यह बतलायेंगे कि यह

इन्वेस्टिगेशन कब से चल रहा है। एक-दो मुद्दे मालूम हुए, और कौन से मुद्दों के बारे में खोज चल रहा है और कब तक इसके पूरे होने की संभावना है ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH Sir, the contractor lodged a report on the 14th of September, that is, two days after the cement was issued and the case has not yet been sent to court.

SHRI V M CHORDIA '66?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH Yes, this year

SHRI ARJUN ARORA May I know if there is any provision for imposing a severe penalty for loss of defence cement on contractors or transporters because merely their being held responsible is not enough. The Government cement is much cheaper than the cement meant for civilian consumption. Even if it is not blackmarketed, there can be profiteering. So, is there any provision for imposing a severe penalty on the contractors and transporters and to so arrange matters that the cement meant for defence production is not lost in transit? If there is no severe penalty, this example may be followed and the defence works may suffer or be delayed.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH I share the concern expressed by the hon Member but I am glad to inform him that it is provided in the conditions that any loss of cement occurring on account of the negligence, fraud or collusion on the part of the contractor can be penalised and departmental action taken including suspension, removal or black-listing and/or appropriate criminal action depending on the facts of each case. As in this particular case the matter is still under investigation, I cannot say as to what will be the result of the investigation.

SHRI G M MIR According to the statement laid on the Table of the House out of 550 bags of cement

190 bags have been recovered by the police. May I know from whom these 190 bags have been recovered and whether any action has been taken against the person from whose possession this cement has been recovered?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH The case is still under investigation and we have generally adopted a convention that we do not

SHRI A P CHATTERJEE This is no answer

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH I will sit down if there is a question by the hon Member

SHRI A P CHATTERJEE You can say from whom these 190 bags were recovered. You know from whom it was recovered.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH If the hon Member has any experience of such cases, in a criminal case even the fact of recovery from an individual is also a matter which is *sub judice*. That is required to be proved in a court of law. It will not be proper for us here to adjudicate upon even the factum of recovery.

SHRI A P CHATTERJEE It is not a question of adjudicating; it is a question of telling from whom the cement was recovered. I do not understand this at all. It is surprising; this is no answer at all.

SHRI K K SHAH I am a practising lawyer myself; you can never give the name.

श्री राजनारायण : आप तहसील में प्रैक्टिस करते होंगे, वे सप्रीम कोर्ट में करते हैं ।

SHRI A P CHATTERJEE What do you say? You do

MR CHAIRMAN: Mr Chatterjee, will you please sit down?

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमन्, यह कहा तक ठीक है कहना कि मैं प्रैक्टिसिंग लाइयर हूँ।

He is also a practising lawyer. ये तहसील में प्रैक्टिस करते होंगे, वे सुप्रीम कोर्ट में करते हैं।

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not the way to quarrel in the House.

SHRI SHANTILAL KOTHARI: Until such time as the Minister thinks of starting a Department of Contradictions, could he not entrust this sort of work to an Information Officer so that he can issue contradictions correcting the newspaper reports: I think there has got to be some way of telling the people as to what the Government view is, particularly when news appears in the national Press about such important matters.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: If the allegation is of a sufficiently serious nature, some clarificatory or contradictory statement can be issued and is generally issued but it should be appreciated that we cannot go on contradicting each and everything that appears in the newspapers.

सोवियत रूस में भारतीय

*549. श्री राजनारायण : क्या वंदेशिक-कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) सोवियत संघ में इस समय भारत के कितने नागरिक रह रहे हैं ;

(ख) उनमें से कितने भारतीय नागरिकों ने रूसी महिलाओं से विवाह कर लिए हैं; और

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि रूसी महिलाओं से विवाह करने वाले लोगों में ऐसे

लोग भी शामिल हैं जो पहले भी अन्य विदेशों की महिलाओं से विवाह कर चुके हैं ?

†[INDIANS IN SOVIET UNION

*549. SHRI RAJNARAIN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian citizens living at present in the Soviet Union;

(b) the number of those Indian citizens from amongst them who have married Russian women; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the persons who have married Russian women include such persons also as had previously married women of other foreign countries as well?]

वंदेशिक-कार्य मंत्री (श्री एम० सी० चागला) : (क) 675 (इसमें मास्को में राजदूतावास और ओडेसा में कंसलावास में काम करने वाले भारतीय नागरिक और उनके परिवार शामिल हैं।)

(ख) 13 .

(ग) सरकार के पास ऐसी कोई सूचना नहीं है।

†[THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. C. CHAGLA): (a) 675 (including Indian nationals working at the Embassy in Moscow and the Consulate in Odessa and their families).

(b) 13.

(c) The Government has no such information.]

श्री दत्तोपन्त ठेंगड़ी : राजदूतावास में काम करने वाले लोगों में से कुल कितने लोगों ने रशियन लेडीज़ के साथ विवाह किया है ?