

श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी : इसकी सूचना हमारे पास नहीं है।

श्री रामकुमार भुवालका : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी को मालूम है कि सिनेमा गेटों पर ऐसे आदमियों को रखा जाता है जो कि गुन्डे क्लास के होते हैं, जिनके बिना सिनेमा हाउस चलता नहीं और इसी वजह से इन लोगों को टिकट देना पड़ता है और ये लोग ही इस तरह की टिकटों की चोर बाजारी करते हैं। तो क्या सरकार इस तरह का प्रबन्ध करेगी कि सिनेमा के गेटों पर इस तरह के लोग न रखे जायें ?

श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी : हमारे पास इस तरह की इत्तिला पहले नहीं थी लेकिन अब हम इस बात की तज्जुओं चीफ कमिश्नर साहब को दे सकते हैं।

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : May I respectfully point out that in so far as the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is concerned, it is concerned only with regard to control over what is produced in the cinema, namely, screen boards and all that ? It is not at all concerned with control over tickets. The Ministry has nothing to do with control on tickets.

SHKIMATI INDIRA GANDHI : That is quite right, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question.

NATIONAL DEFENCE FUND

*352. SHRI A. D. MANI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Prime Minister's attention has been drawn to statement made by the Chief Minister of Maharashtra in the Vidhan Sabha to the effect that there have been defalcation by various means of funds which should have been credited to the National Defence Fund; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what steps Government are taking to punish the offenders ?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI LAL BAHADUR) : (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

In reply to a question in the Vidhan Sabha Maharashtra, the Chief Minister of Maharashtra had stated that the inspection squad set up by the Citizens' Defence Committee (Maharashtra), Bombay with the approval of the State Government, to inspect the National Defence Fund Accounts of the various Citizens' Defence Committees in the entire State had noticed various types of irregularities, discrepancies and procedural defects in the maintenance of accounts and crediting of the amount collected. These irregularities etc. related to an amount of Rs. 20.38 lakhs out of a total collection of Rs. 9.72 crores and 2.35 lakh grammes of gold. Out of this amount also, a total amount of Rs. 17.72 lakhs has already been credited to the National Defence Fund. The remaining amount of about Rs. 2.66 lakhs is also expected to be cleared shortly. Most of the irregularities pointed out by the inspection squad are procedural and of a technical nature. However, if any cases of fraud or defalcation are finally established, severe action will be taken by the State Government against the persons concerned.

SHRI A. D. MANI : Sir, according to the Statement, the irregularities amounted to Rs. 20.38 lakhs out of which Rs. 17.72 lakhs have been returned. The Statement goes on to say that most of the irregularities pointed out by the inspection squad are procedural and of a technical nature. Sir, on the contrary, the Chief Minister of Maharashtra stated in the Vidhan Sabha that a number of defalcations had taken place and regarding the so-called technical irregularities may I draw the attention of the Prime Minister to the following facts :

"Collections to be credited to the Fund were unauthorisedly utilised for some expenditure, although no expenditure was

permitted directly from the Fund. In some cases, receipts were made out and kept along with counterfoils with there-marks 'party was unable to pay'. Cash registers were not maintained at all in certain places. Receipt books were not produced for inspection at some places and receipts for certain amounts stated to have been deposited in the Banks were not produced at the time of inspection."

May I ask the Prime Minister whether these facts are correct and, if they are correct, how does he say that these irregularities are of a technical and procedural nature ?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR : What Mr. Mani has said, even if those things are correct, I do not think they prove any kind of defalcation. That is number one. Then number two, this report has come to us from the State Government and naturally we have to go by their advice. Thirdly, this report has come after further enquiries. In regard to what has appeared or may have appeared in the newspapers—that may be an earlier story—but later on after having made fuller enquiries this report has been sent to us.

SHRI A. D. MANI : Sir, these irregularities were committed by the Citizens Defence Committee of Maharashtra. The National Defence Fund is the responsibility more or less of the Central Government. The Government here did not send any auditor to inspect these accounts. We are going by the report submitted by the State Government. I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether it is not a fact that the Central Government should exercise some measure of inspection over the accounts of the collecting authorities in the various States in India.

SHRI LAL BAHADUR : The State Governments are very responsible bodies or organisations. You cannot just tick them off in that manner. The State Governments have made tremendous collection over Rs. 9 crores and it was they who kept the accounts. I am quite sure that the auditors appointed by the State Governments have audited the accounts and looked into them

SHRI A. D. MANI : In regard to the sense of responsibility of the State Governments, may I draw the attention of the Prime Minister to the fact that in some places the Government have seized printed receipts by voluntary organisations like the Tahika Defence Committees and the Zila Parishads ? The whole thing is in a mess and the Government of India has so far not sent any enquiry team from here. May I ask the Prime Minister whether he has sent such a team in regard to the grave allegations made against the Maharashtra Government ?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR : It is not necessary. We entirely depend on the State Governments, and I think they will discharge their responsibility fully. The hon. Member has to realise that in the beginning just after the aggression collections were made voluntarily on a very big scale. In fact no rules could be framed; no regulations were framed and even then millions of rupees in cash and in gold used to come and certain receipts were issued by different organisations. But, as the report says, it is quite clear that the Maharashtra Government, are looking into each and every matter.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Even after the Orissa experience if the Prime Minister has so much confidence in the State Governments, he is welcome to have it. But we, Sir, humble creatures would like to know how is it that after so many irregularities and abnormalities have been pointed out, the Government does not come to the conclusion that there may be a *prima facie* case for defalcation and wilful withholding of the collection that had been made ? May I know, Sir, whether any proper investigation was arranged for in this matter ?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR : The State Government have done their duty perfectly well. As was just now pointed out, out of about Rs. 20 lakhs, about which certain enquiries were made, over Rs. 17 lakhs have been regularised. Only Rs. 2 lakhs and something odd remains to be further looked into. I think this is a fairly good job done.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY : Certainly with regard to the collections in cash a fairly good job has been done. Only a small amount of Rs. 2.66 lakhs is left over to be accounted for. But I would like to know what has happened to that 2.35 lakh grams of gold. Nothing has been said in the statement about it. I should like to know whether everything is all right with regard to the collected gold is that also being investigated ?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR : Sir, as far as I am aware, these contributions are on the whole all right. But I cannot say exactly that it is so.

SHRI C. D. PANDE : In view of the fact that a huge amount of Rs. 60 crores was collected at that time, may I know, Sir, whether the Government propose to amalgamate this amount with the General Fund of the Government or does it want to make a special endowment, or has any equipment been purchased for Defence purposes out of the collections made *>

SHRI LAL BAHADUR : This amount has to remain separate. It would not form part of our General Budget or Funds of Revenues. Out of this quite a handsome amount was spent in the purchase of Defence equipment.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI : In spite of the assurances given by hon. the Prime-Minister, may I know, Sir, when a serious charge has been brought in by an hon. Member of this House, whether he will be kind enough to make enquiries and find out the real facts in that State about this fund ?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR : These have already been looked into. They have been enquired into and we have received the report from the Maharashtra Government. If there is anything specific which the hon. Member would like to point out, I shall certainly be prepared to make further enquiries.

SHRIMATI TARA RAMCHANDRA SATHE : Sir, it is already stated in the statement that :

"However, if any cases of fraud or defalcation are finally established, severe

action will be taken by the State Government against the persons concerned."

They have already said so. In view of this promise, can we not allow them some time ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is your question ?

SHRIMATI TARA RAMCHANDRA SATHE : Some time should be given to them for this purpose.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not a question.

SHRIMATI TARA RAMCHANDRA SATHE : In view of this promise we should give them some time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : But this is a suggestion, not a question.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : She means advisability.

SHRI DEVI SINGH : Sir. . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am afraid you have to catch my eye, not my ear.

FILM SEMINAR

*353. SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received the recommendations of the film seminar which was held in Delhi in January, 1965; and

(b) if so, what are the main recommendations and what action is proposed to be taken thereon ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND