

that the newspapers have received from the world. The question here was: How many newspapers in the last five years have received machinery from the U.K. on credit? These are only three cases. If the hon. Member tables a separate question, I will be prepared to furnish the necessary information.

SHRI K. SANTHANAM: Now that a specific allegation has been made about Mr. Mani, Mr. Mani must inform the House whether it is correct or false.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No allegation has been made. There is some insinuation made.

SHRI A. D. MANI: If the hon. Member referred to Mr. Mani, I am not here to divulge private conversations that took place elsewhere. If the hon. Member has put the question, he takes the responsibility. The hon. Member should address his questions to him and get more particulars from him.

COMPLAINTS REGARDING FOREIGN ACCOUNT OF MINISTERS

*166. **SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Ministers at the Centre or the States have declared maintenance of foreign accounts in their names;

(b) if so, what are the names of those Ministers; and

(c) whether Government received any complaints regarding foreign accounts of any of the Ministers at the Centre or the States?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Two Ministers, one in the Centre and one from one of the States have declared their foreign currency

accounts. Both the accounts have been in existence from a date prior to the introduction of exchange control in the country.

Keeping in view the banker-customer relationship, it would not be appropriate to disclose further details.

(c) No, Sir.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know, Sir, whether the enquiries made against Messrs. Bird & Co. have disclosed the names of some Ministers besides these two who have their foreign accounts?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: There is no question even of these two being mentioned in the company's accounts nor of any Minister being mentioned in the Bird & Co.'s accounts.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: May we know the names of Ministers who have opened accounts in foreign banks?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: They cannot be given because this is all a confidential matter between banks and their customers.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: May I know, Sir, if the Government knows that the Chief Minister of a State has a large amount in one of the banks in Dusseldorf in Germany?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: The hon. Member may be knowing it. I do not know it.

SHRI M. H. SAMUEL: In order to clear the Central Ministry in this matter would the Minister be pleased to state that there is no Central Minister involved in this matter?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: How is a Minister involved in it? If any Minister has a regular account outside, he is not involved in anything.

सरदार रघुबीर सिंह पंजहजारी : उसका नाम लेने में क्या एतराज है जिसका रुपया फारेन कंट्रीज में है ?

श्री मोरारजी देसाई : बैंकिंग ला बीच में प्रस्ता है। बैंकिंग ला के खिलाफ है।

सरदार रघुबीर सिंह पंजहजारी : मैं पूछता हूँ कि क्या आज चीफ मिनिस्टर, उड़ीसा का रुपया फारेन कंट्रीज में नहीं है ?

श्री मोरारजी देसाई : मैंने कहा कि नहीं है।

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: Why was it necessary for these two Ministers to open their accounts in foreign banks? So far as I understand, they are not trading in any commodity. Therefore, it should not have been necessary for them to open accounts in foreign banks.

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: These accounts were there even before the Exchange Control came into force.

SHRI C. D. PANDE: The hon. Minister has said that there is nothing wrong in having an account outside India. If a person has an account outside, may I know, Sir, if he is authorised to operate without any interference?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: I am being not properly understood or properly represented. I never said it is wrong to have an account outside. It is not wrong to have an account outside if it conforms to the rules and these two accounts conform to the rules completely.

SHRI C. D. PANDE: Free to operate?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: They are not free to operate in the sense that without informing the Reserve Bank nobody is free to operate.

सरदार रघुबीर सिंह पंजहजारी : इसी किस्म का एक सवाल पहले इसी हाउस में किया गया था तो उस वक्त लीडर आफ दी अपोजीशन पार्टी, मिस्टर डांगे, का नाम इस हाउस में लिया गया था कि उनका रुपया फारेन कंट्री में है। तो अगर मिस्टर डांगे का नाम लिया जा सकता है तो क्या वजह है कि सेंट्रल मिनिस्टर या प्राविशियल मिनिस्टर का नाम इस हाउस में नहीं लिया जा सकता है ?

श्री सभापति : नाम तो सब का जपा जा सकता है लेकिन जरूरत के वक्त लिया जाता है।

सरदार रघुबीर सिंह पंजहजारी : जब जवाब में यह बतलाया गया है कि एक सेंट्रल और एक प्राविशियल मिनिस्टर इनवाल्ड हैं तो उनका नाम लेना चाहिये ?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: When a breach of regulation is concerned, then the name is given. There is no question of a breach of regulation. Therefore, there is no question of giving name.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: May I know, Sir, whether it is not necessary in the interest of clean public life that the Caesar's wife should be above suspicion, that the Prime Minister and the Ministers in the Central Cabinet and in the States should be above suspicion? Therefore, it is necessary that this information should be placed before the House.

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: I would only request the hon. Member to be Caesar's wife.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: I do not sit on those benches. If I do, it will be.