

SHRI K. C. REDDY: Yes, Sir, we came to know this but that should be no reason why this eminent gentleman should not continue with the work entrusted to him.

SHRI S. N. MISHRA: Pending legal or legislative action, I want to know whether Government has taken any administrative action as proposed by the Commission.

SHRI K. C. REDDY: The Commission, so far as I am aware, has not proposed any administrative action of the type which the hon. Member mentions.

SHRI S. N. MISHRA: The Commission has said that there must be integrated administration of the Companies Act. I want to know whether any action has been taken on that.

SHRI K. C. REDDY: I have already replied to that aspect of the matter.

(Several hon. Members stood up)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am afraid I will not allow any more questions on this. Next question.

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL: Sir, I just want to have your guidance in this matter. Considering the large amount of criticism that has been voiced here on the floor of the House, I want your guidance whether it would not be possible for you, as Chairman of this House, to suggest the formation of a Committee of this House to go into this matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am afraid not. Government have the intention of bringing up this matter before the House for discussion. The Report would come. That suggestion has already been made and pending some preliminaries, Government would come to the House and that would be enough.

# REPRESENTATIONS FROM ORGANISATIONS OF GOLDSMITHS AFFECTED BY GOLD POLICY

\*81. { SHRI B. D. KHOBARA-  
GADE:†  
SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:  
SHRI ABDUL GHANI:  
SHRI S. PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made an estimate of the number of persons likely to be unemployed as a result of the recent Gold Control Rules;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have received a number of representations from organisations of goldsmiths who are affected by the said Rules;

(c) if so, what are the grievances of the goldsmiths; and

(d) what steps are being taken by Government to redress these grievances?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): (a) No precise estimate has been made, as it is too early to ascertain on a long-term basis, the probable extent of unemployment as a result of the enforcement of the rules.

(b) Yes.

(c) The main grievances are that it is impossible or very difficult to manufacture ornaments in gold of a purity of 14-carats or less, that supplies of gold in alloys upto 14-carats are not easily available and that the licence fee is high.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri B. D. Khobaragade.

(d) Some of the grievances are exaggerated and some others are misconceived. The question of taking certain measures to alleviate any unnecessary hardship which may exist is under consideration.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: May I know, Sir, whether it is also a grievance of the goldsmiths that they were not allowed to complete the incomplete ornaments? If so, what is the decision of the Government in this respect—whether they would allow the goldsmiths to complete their incomplete ornaments?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: The question does not relate to all goldsmiths. If it relates to those people who are only workers and employees, then they cannot have any uncompleted ornaments with them. Then, it would be with the dealers who have engaged them. If they were carrying on the business themselves and also doing the work, then there would be some like that with half finished ornaments. But when an order like this is issued it is not possible to allow them to be finished during the time. We are now considering what has to be done about it and after the consideration is finished, we will take a decision.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that it is rather difficult for these goldsmiths to prepare ornaments of 14 carat gold, because they are not used to such ornaments? If so, what facilities are being made available to the goldsmiths to attune themselves to manufacturing 14 carat ornaments?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: It is not true that it is difficult to make ornaments out of 14 carat, 12 carat or 9 carat gold. Very ordinary goldsmiths have come to me, told me and showed me how it can be done with their ordinary instruments. There is also an exhibition of these ornaments in the State Bank. Anybody can go and have a look at them. Therefore, this complaint is not justified.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: In view of the Finance Minister's statement that there will be unemployment among goldsmiths as a result of the orders, will the Government take on the statutory obligation to find the means of livelihood for them?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: No, Sir.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: I was able to see the exhibition in the State Bank, but I would like to know if this practice of making ornaments from 14 carat gold is in vogue in any other country of the world and whether this is not the first time that such a thing is being done here.

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: As a matter of fact, in all those countries it is only 14 carat which is used. It is only in this country that more than 14 carat gold was used for ornaments.

श्री देवकीनन्दन नारायण: क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि ये जो स्वर्णकार हैं—इनका नाम भले ही स्वर्णकार हो—ये सिर्फ स्वर्ण का ही काम नहीं करते बल्कि बहुत सा अधिकतर चांदी का काम करते हैं ।

श्री मोरारजी देसाई : यह बात बिल्कुल सही है ।

SHRI M. M. SUR: Is the Government aware that one Superintendent of Central Excise in West Bengal has passed orders to the effect that gold ornaments kept on mortgage with goldsmiths doing loan business cannot be returned to the owners?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: There has been some such thing happening and we are clarifying that they were not correct. Those ornaments can be returned, without any permission being required.

SHRI C. D. PANDE: In view of the fact that it is difficult for the ordinary public to get gold with 14 carat purity, will the Government make certain agencies available to supply it to the public who wants them? It is very

difficult to judge. Nobody can say whether it is 1 carat, 12 carat or 9 carat.

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: Was this done even with regard to the ornaments which they possess? I do not think they know what sort of ornaments they are. I find that even now with regard to ornaments said to be made of pure gold they are of 18 carat or less purity.

SHRI C. D. PANDEY: In view of the fact that Government is laying stress on 14 carat gold, will they have certain agencies where certified gold can be made available to the public?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: I am not laying stress on 14 carat. What I am saying is that more than 14 carat ornaments cannot be manufactured. If none is manufactured I shall be very happy.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Has any representation been received under part (b) of the question to the effect that the Chairman of the Gold Control Board is a person who has been involved in foreign exchange violations and he is an exporter of copper and, therefore, interested in 14 carat ornaments?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: I have not followed it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has not followed it, nor have I. Perhaps you did not mean it to be followed.

SHRI A. D. MANI: I would like it to be followed. Has any representation been received by the Government on some matters and one of the matters is that the Chairman of the Gold Control Board is a person who has been involved in foreign exchange violations? That is the first allegation. The second allegation is that he is an exporter of copper and, therefore, interested in 14 carat ornaments.

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: What was done has not been with his advice at all. He came into the picture after the order had been passed. Therefore, there is no question of his being involved in it. He has not been punished in any way for any infringement of any law. It was the firm or his brothers who were involved and he was not involved in it.

SHRI BAIRAGI DWIBEDY: May I know, Sir, how many cases have been instituted against anybody for violating the Gold Control Rules in any of the States?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: That will happen now.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: The hon. Minister has admitted that some ornaments in the hands of goldsmiths are incomplete ornaments. May I know from the hon. Minister what steps he proposes to take to redress the grievances of such goldsmiths?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: As I said, these matters are under consideration. As soon as their consideration is over—which also we would like to end as soon as possible—necessary decisions will be taken.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: How long will it take?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: As I said, no decision is necessary.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: In view of the Minister's statement that the Government takes no responsibility to find the means of livelihood for the goldsmiths, will the Government decide on giving certain relief to those who are unemployed, so that they can find their bearing in life, they can be settled in life?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: We have not yet reached the stage at all where we can give relief to all the unemployed people in this country.