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Title : Loss incurred by Spices Trading Corporation Limited.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (BANGALORE SOUTH): Madam, during the last five years, scams after scams are getting unfolded during the Congress and the UPA Government. While the hon. Minister for Railways was presenting her Railway Budget, she said that a white paper is required.

Madam, I want to draw your attention, the attention of the Government and the attention of the entire House to the fact that a new scam in the State Trading Corporation Limited, which is a trading wing of the Commerce Ministry, is getting unfolded....(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Madam, his notice was in relation to the Spices Trading Corporation but he is mentioning about the State Trading Corporation....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Actually, the STCL has lost a huge amount of Rs.1250 crore, that is, a quarter billion US Dollars. The STCL has become a middleman in the last ten months to procure the scrap nickel and scrap copper from various international sellers and to supply it to the third-world countries like Vietnam (to the Bhushan Port), Indonesia and South Korea but they did not procure the scrap nickel and scrap cooper. Unfortunately, they procured scrap iron.

The STCL has recently filed a complaint against two trading companies – the Future Metals Private Limited and the Future Exim India Private Limited – of Bangalore. What is most unfortunate is that when the complaint has been given by the STCL, the Union Finance Ministry, through its Enforcement Directorate, sends an advice to the Bangalore Police. It is very curious and mysterious.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Madam, I am concluding. The Director of Enforcement, in a communication to the Bangalore Police Commissioner, advised a week ago not to go ahead with filing an FIR as it would require at least two-months' time to investigate and gather basic evidence required to assess the gravity of the evidence.

Now, I would put a straight question to the Government. When the Bangalore Police is ready to file an FIR against these two fraudulent companies, why is the Union Finance Ministry, through its Enforcement Directorate, withholding the entire thing?

MADAM SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : I am concluding now. Why is it sending an advice?...(*Interruptions*) Why do they want to hush up a matter of a mega scam of Rs.1250 crore? Unfortunately, both Shri Kamal Nath, the former Commerce Minister and Shri Anand Sharma, the present Commerce Minister are not here. I, therefore, expect the Government to come out very clean. They should institute a CBI inquiry into the whole matter. I expect the Government to give us an assurance....(*Interruptions*) Madam, through you, I am asking them to respond to this. If there is a scam, they should respond....(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: No. During "Zero Hour," there is no such system of response. Thank you.

Now, I call Shri Sivakumar *alias* J.K. Ritheesh.