

disturbances that all the licensed weapons may be deposited in the police station. It is very unfortunate that people who are noble and dependable and have been issued licences after the verification of their bonafide are asked to surrender their licences. Hence, it is not something desirable to issue orders requiring these people to deposit their licensed arms. On the contrary, in the State of Punjab, the Government is issuing licences to the dependable and noble persons but in the State Rajasthan, the people, who were already in possession of licences, are being asked to surrender their licences and deposit their licensed weapons in the police station. On whose instructions they are doing it? Today, Guards arms with stenguns are being provided to the Ministers and officers of the Government but it is very unfortunate that Government intends to put a restriction on licensed weapons of the noble citizens. Such a thing did not happen even during the period of British rule. It is not correct to suspect and misunderstand the noble persons. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to direct the State Government not to take such steps in respect of these orders because it increases the bad feelings and also causes humiliation to the law abiding people.

With these words, I conclude, and take my seat.

16.00 hrs.

**DISCUSSION RE: MAINTENANCE OF A
BANK ACCOUNT IN ST: KITTS**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now we shall take up a discussion on the statement made by the Minister of State in the Department of Economic Affairs in the Ministry of Finance in the House on the 12th October, 1989 regarding maintenance of a Bank Account in St. Kitts.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI (Satna): What

about this discussion?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will continue this...

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT): We will take up this discussion just now and later on we will continue discussion on the communal situation.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): You are not going to sit after 6.00 P.M. or 6.30 P.M. I believe. Today it is Id-e-Milad-ul-Nabi. We did not raise this question the whole day. There are so many festivals and so many things going on outside...

SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT: Banatwallaji, we will do that. You can speak on it. Let the Home Minister come here. We will keep this in mind so that we can let you go by 6.00 P.M. or 6.30 P.M. Will that be alright? We will certainly keep that in mind.

16.02 hrs.

[English]

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

**Statement made on 12/10/1989 by the
Minister of State in the Department of
Economic Affairs in the Ministry of
Finance re : Maintenance of a bank
Account in St. Kitts**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Basheer to speak.

SHRI T. BASHEER (Chirayinkil): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to raise the discussion on the statement made by the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance regarding maintenance of a bank account by Shri Ajeya Singh, son of the Janata Dal Leader Shri V.P. Singh. This is about a person,

[Sh. T. Basheer]

standing on the top of the House declaring at the top of his voice about value-based politics, fighting corruption etc.

At the outset, I would like to say that the so-called leader, the value based politician, is now fully exposed and his real colours have come out and now his image is sinking in the mud. Who was Shri V.P. Singh ? He was the UPCC President. He was leader in the Congress Party also. He was the Chief Minister of U.P. and he was the Finance Minister of this Government. At that time, opposition had criticised him. When he presented his Budget here, it is the same opposition who said: "look, this is the horried, anti-poor, bourgeois Budget, not progressive and so on." Then he was reactionary. Then suddenly he became idealist, value-based politician, angel, Messiah of opposition and everything. When Mr. V.P. Singh became acceptable to the Opposition? When this opportunist bourgeois Congress leader became acceptable to this opposition as value-based politician? When Mr. V.P. Singh betrayed his party; When Mr. V.P. Singh betrayed his leader and like a butcher, Mr. V.P. Singh stabbed his leader on the back, of course, politically. Then he became acceptable to the opposition. Then he became the idealist.

Now, I come to the statement made by the Minister. Before that I would like to refer to a point. During the last session you know we had raised a point here. We raised an issue of a letter. You know the letter written by Shri V.P. Singh. To whom? To Shri Haji Mastan. We raised that issue in this House. In the letter Shri V.P. Singh profusely thanked Shri Haji Mastan for his generous donation in Allahabad election. He addressed like this.

" Dear Mastanbhai,

Thank you for the donation and for other help in Allahabd election."

Shri V.P. Singh talks about value based politics, talks about black-money, talks about

corruption. But we know who is Shri Haji Mastan, what is his background and what are his antecedents. Shri V.P. Singh said, "Thank you Shri Mastan, I thank you for your generous help" Shri Haji Mastan repeatedly said that he has received such a letter from Shri V.P. Singh. Now Shri V.P. Singh is silent.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): Mr. Deputy Speaker, are we discussion Shri V.P. Singh or are we discussing this statement?

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji): We are discussing the beneficiary of this account. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will see. We will find out.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: This is totally irrelevant. You keep your speech limited to this account and to the statement.

SHRI T. BASHEER: I will just now show you the relevance. The name of the beneficiary is Shri V.P. Singh.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: That is your assumption.

SHRI T. BASHEER: That is my charge.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Does it give you the authority for character assassination of Shri V.P. Singh?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: When in the statement already made the name of Shri V.P. Singh is mentioned, let him be brief on that and then after that he can into the details of the account.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Is that fair? I would like to know this from the hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs.

SHRI T. BASHEER: What I am trying to tell you is that now we know the real colour

of Shri V.P. Singh and the meaning of what he says.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Don't vote for him!

SHRIT. BASHEER: About this account, this report first came not in an Indian newspaper. This news item appeared in a Kuwaiti newspaper, the Arab Times on 20.8.1989.

16.10 hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*]

Almost all the Indian news papers carried this news. The main disclosure is an account with Number 29479 with the First Trust Corporation Limited, St. Kitts, was opened in the name of Shri Ajeya Singh, in which Shri V.P. Singh is included as the beneficiary. During the period from 16.9.86 to 26.3.87, huge amounts were deposited in the account by way of six deposits. The details are given here and everyone knows the details of this account also. Actually, on 16.9.86 the deposited amount is US \$2 million; on 10.10.86, it is US \$ 2 million; on 13.12.86 it is US \$ 5 million; on 18.1.87, it is US \$ 3 million ; on 24.2.87 it is US \$ 5 million and lastly on 26.3.87, it is US \$ 4 million. The total amount comes to US \$ 21 million. Everyone knows the nature of this bank. It is clear that somebody, on behalf of Mr Ajeya Singh approached the First Trust Corporation, St. Kitts. Mr. Mclean, the Managing Director was approached by a person in connection with the Special Investment Programme of the Corporation. St. Kitts has a special programme, special plan for investment for Indians and other foreigners. So, somebody approached him. This person indicated the intention of opening a numbered account for depositing a substantial amount of money. After the details had been settled, requisite forms for opening the account were taken by this person. After two weeks, the same person returned and presented to the Corporation through its Managing Director, Mr. Mclean, completed forms duly signed by Shri Ajeya Singh as 'account holder' and Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh

as ' beneficiary.' Photostate copies of the passports of Shri Ajeya Singh and Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh were also handed over to Mr. Mclean. All these details were given. As the Minister has correctly put it, from the enquiries made by the Ministry, it is clear that these are genuine. You may remember when this item was published in our news papers, this charge was not levelled by any Congressman. But the news papers said that.

Then Mr. V. P. Singh said that Government must take action. Government should prosecute his son. He made much hue and cry. Then Government was not so much anxious but it was V P Singh who said that Government must take action and prosecute his son. After that Mr. Ajeya Singh came to India and presented some statement. It was quite natural for the Government to ask for more information regarding his statement. On two occasions Mr. Ajeya Singh was asked to furnish some information but the information given by him on both occasions was incomplete.

I quote from the statement of the Minister:

"As some aspects of the transaction could attract provisions of the FERA, the Directorate of Enforcement issued a Directive under Section 33 (2) of the FERA, 1973 to Shri Ajeya Singh on 13.9.1989, which was replied to by Shri Ajeya Singh on 18th September, 1989. Since the information furnished by Shri Ajeya Singh in response to the Directive dated 13th September, 1989 was incomplete, the Directorate issued another Directive to Shri Ajeya Singh on 28th September, 1989. The reply to the second Directive has also been received by the Enforcement Directorate on 9th October, 1989. However, the reply received is still not complete..."

So the information asked for has not been submitted so far by him. I would like to know from the hon. Minister why there is so much delay and why Shri Ajeya Singh is reluctant to submit this information? Why is he not

[Sh. T. Basheer]

submitting full information asked for by the Enforcement Directorate?

Another thing is about Shri Ajeya Singh's statement in respect of his assets. He has said that he lived in hard times between 1977 and 1983 and he was unemployed for a substantial period but as per the statement his total assets are more than half a million US dollars, namely, about Rs. 80 lakhs. Now this point becomes clear that these assets are disproportionate to his known source of income. I would to know what action Government has taken to find out the facts behind it? Of course, I can understand that a doctor or a physician will get high remuneration in the USA. But a bank employees will not get a high remuneration there. Mr. Ajeya Singh was a junior officer of the bank. In the USA, it is not a remunerative post. I would like to know what was the answer from Mr. Ajeya Singh about how he acquired these assets and what was the source of his income.

Mr. V.P. Singh mentioned last year that he and his family members had nothing to do with the Reliance company. But now he has admitted in his statement that Mr. Ajeya Singh owned 1,800 shares of the Reliance company. This fact was brought out during the election campaign in Allahabad last year. But Mr. V.P. Singh then said that it was false. Now Mr. Ajeya Singh admits it.

As I told you, Mr. Ajeya Singh had said that he lived in hard time between September 1977 and 1983. So, we should believe that the deposits amounting to US \$ 1 lakh held by him in various foreign banks are as a result of savings for six years. He has submitted that he was drawing an annual salary of US \$ 50,000. When he left his place last week, that was the salary. Surely, in the earlier years, he must have earned less. Therefore, the questions is: how could he survive in a foreign country on a low salary and yet he could have huge savings?

Shri V.P. Singh always says that his son has not received any favours from him. But

Ajeya Singh was working with the City Bank in the USA. Mr. V.P. Singh was the Finance Minister. So many concessions were given to this foreign bank. It is clear that his son was employed in the Citi Bank, USA, because of the favours done to this bank. This is a fact. This is a very clear evidence. And the periods also prove that it is correct. Sir, Mr. V.P. Singh is a 'Raja'. We know his financial position. His other son, Mr. Abeya Singh, as everybody knows, has flats here. His assets come to crores. The question is why Mr. Ajeya Singh was sent to USA. On the other side, he speaks about value-based politics. Why was he sent to USA? As I had put it earlier, employment in a bank in USA is not so attractive and remunerative. Then why had he gone to work in a bank there? I would like to say that he was sent to USA to cover up and conceal his assets and foreign deposits. I am concluding by saying that Government must look into these aspects. A thorough inquiry must be made into these things and this will definitely establish Mr. V.P. Singh's real colour in politics. With these words, I urge upon the Government to look into all the aspects regarding this issue and to come out with real facts. The people of India are awaiting to know the facts about these things.

[Translation]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Jadavpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not want to speak much on this subject since Shri Basheer has already given the factual position in the House. However, I have some doubts and I want the hon. Minister to clarify them. I have noticed a few irregularities in the report published in the Arab Times about the St. Kitts account. There are no two views that it is bad to make false allegations against a person but there are a number of leaders in our country who put on masks. They pose to be honest and simple but the moment they are exposed and unmasked everybody know their real self. We are all elected representatives of the people, no matter whether we belong to the ruling party or the Opposition. However a true leader is a person who makes sacrifice and sets an example before

the masses. Leaders are not born but become by virtue of their deeds. But today there are many such leaders in our country who do not have leadership qualities. They hardly own anything before becoming leaders but the moment they become leaders they own properties worth crores of rupees. The Government had instructed Shri V.P. Singh's son twice to submit a list of his assets but the latter gave a hanky-panky account of his assets. This is why I have doubts which I want to raise in the House. I do not want to hurl false allegations on someone but it is the duty of the Government to verify the assets submitted by him and see if there is any criminal offence against him and whether he falls in the category of an economic offender. The Government should investigate all the evidence received against him and find out whether the news published in the *Arab Times* is authentic or not? If it is true then what instructions have been given by the Government? Do you have any information about his assets and is the evidence given by Shri Ajeya Singh genuine or not? You should see his assets. Since when is he filling his income tax? Just 4 years back he had filed income tax return to the tune of Rs. 40 thousand and now he has filed it to the tune of Rs. 40 lakhs. It is for the Government to see how this figure of Rs. 40 thousand has risen to Rs. 40 lakh because money cannot increase so fast. There has certainly been some bungling as a result of which money has increased so fast. What is the Government thinking about the validity of the information given by Shri Ajeya Singh? What is the genuineness of the evidence given by Shri Ajeya Singh? Is there anything hanky-panky in it?

Sir, my third submission is that Shri V.P. Singh had given a lot of funds to the American City Bank during his tenure. Consequently, its branch was opened in India and his son got a job in that bank. What is the date of his son's appointment? Was it before Shri V.P. Singh became the Minister or after that? Was Shri Ajeya Singh appointed on his own merit or of his father's because it is not easy to get a job in an American Bank. Was there any political nexus? The Government has to

investigate all these things. I am saying this because it is a very important question.

Sir, you know that Shri Ajeya Singh has huge deposits in St. Kitts whereas it is a petty financial institution which can transfer the U.S. dollars. If he has deposits in the First Trust Corporation, as he has said, we do not have any information in this regard. We would like to know if the Government has any such information? Shri V.P. Singh has also said that neither his son nor any of his relatives son is employed in a foreign bank. So is that document forged or authentic? The Government should state if any investigation is being made in this regard and whether this case is being handed over to the C.B.I. At present we are speaking only about Shri Ajeya Singh but there are many other people against whom much can be said. For example, Shri Devi Lal of Haryana whose son-in-law indulged in the land scandal. They indulged in horse trading and M.Ps were purchased. From where do they get so much money. Black money is converted into white by offering it as gift on birthdays. The A.G.P. Government in Assam has become bankrupt. Chandan Basu, the son of the West Bengal Chief Minister was employed on a meagrely salary of Rs. 1200 only but now he owns property worth crores of rupees. Crores of rupees were borrowed from Financial Corporation in the name of West Bengal Lamp and not even a single penny was paid to the unemployed youth. The entire fund went to his son and is still being given to him. His son is enjoying at the cost of public exchequer. If this goes on increasing what will be the fate of this country? Shri Hegde too has been involved in land scandal. I want to ask the hon. Minister as to how these people have made so much money in such a short time? What magic has worked in their case? Did Shri V.P. Singh get this money from the Bofors or from the C.I.A.? Where from did he get it? What is the source? I simply want to know. I do not want to create any personal scandal. But a person who calls Shri Rajiv Gandhi or the Congress a thief has a blackened face himself. Therefore, I want to say that you should hold a detailed enquiry and present a detailed and

[Kumari Mamata Banerjee]

comprehensive report in the House so that people in the country may know the reality of these persons. All these things should be told in the House. I do not want to say anything against any person. But I would be obliged if you tell in the House as to what is the authenticity of the documents and what steps the Government proposes to take. I do not want to elaborate on it but the Government should take it seriously and not lightly. If this continues the money of our country will go in foreign hands and will later be spent on elections. Some will celebrate Ramshila Pujan, some will try to disintegrate the country, others will hatch conspiracy to murder Shrimati Indira Gandhi and still others will call the Congress a thief. The foreign hand cannot be ruled out in whatever is happening in the country. There is some masked faced who is playing in the foreign hands. This is a very important matter of public interest and therefore, the Government should expedite the matter and inform the House accordingly. You should bring to light the acts of one who calls himself honest, support the B.J.P. and has friendship with Shri Ramarao and Shri Devi Lal.

[English]

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have read and re-read the statement made by the hon. Minister of State for Finance yesterday in the House on this question that we are discussing today. Here is a bare statement of fact that an allegation has been made in the Press. There was a Press report. Based on that Press report, the tentative accused issued a Press statement and the Government took notice, issued a directive on 13.9.1989, issued a second directive on the 20th September, 1989, an interim reply has been received and some further details are awaited. Simultaneously, the Director (Enforcement) has initiated inquiries on its own and the last sentence says: "Further inquiries are being conducted to verify the information that has come into the possession of the Director."

Now, Sir, unless and until the inquiries are completed and certain facts are established, a *prima facie* case cannot be made out. Then, certain logical conclusions will follow. If the enquiry establishes a *prima facie* case, the person concerned will be prosecuted. If the enquiry does not do so, the allegation shall die a natural death. What is the point of discussion, if the inquiry has not been concluded. The Department can not be said to be guilty of delay?

The hon. Member Mr. Basheer spoke about the delay. I am surprised: 13.9.1939 was the date of the directive; today we are on the 13th October—precisely month. In this period, two transactions have taken place. I am sure the hon. Members are familiar with the working of the Government. At least I am. I have seen it from inside. I think this is express speed, and I compliment the hon. Minister. And yet Mr. Basheer accuses the Department of delay. I do not know what the point is.

Government do not generally act on Press reports, on bare Press reports; and they should not—and I know they do not. They have not acted on all the documents published in "The Hindu". Today, there is that question. The documents have been published; and I do not think the Government machinery immediately takes notice. But, in this case, they took action on a Press report, although the press also said that the authenticity of that report was challenged by the putative accused. In the other cases, even where the authenticity of the documents had not been challenged, the Government did not take notice of the Press reports, did not act on them. Here, in this case, a Press report appears, obviously in my view a concocted, invented report from Delhi; it was deliberately introduced into their foreign Press, then brought back into India, re-published and all that. I know all that hocus-pocus. It goes on. I know lots about such matters. I have been in the diplomatic field: how things are manufactured and how things are flashed on, and things are invented. But let us, say, assume that everything was done in good faith; and yet, a report was published

and Government have taken action. And then, the allegation was flatly, very firmly denied by the accused. And yet the Government took action because it must have had some reasons. I am not questioning the reasons. I am not questioning the motives either. I am taking it as a plain and simple allegation of violation of FERA 1973; and, therefore, irrespective of whose son the fellow was, and whose names are involved, the law must take its course. That is the normal way. We are living in a democracy. We are living under the rule of law. Nobody can go scotfree and nobody is above the law. And, therefore, if such a damaging accusation is made, I think the Government is absolutely right in conducting an enquiry. But I do not yet understand why this debate, before they have come to any solid conclusion.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Why are you participating?

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: I have to, because there is a debate; just to put the record straight.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Not necessary.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Now I come to this point: From what has been said on the floor of this House, it appears to that the purpose of this discussion is highly political. Of course, we are a political forum. But even politics has a certain level and I do not think we should permit ourselves to sink below that level. I mean our discussion in this august House. We are on the last legs this is perhaps the ultimate or penultimate day of this House. We should not use this forum for character assassination, for questioning the political policies and programmes of our political opponents. Is that a fair game, Sir? Is that a fair game? We shall soon have the election campaign. We shall place it all before the people. We shall make all the accusations that we want; we shall say everything that we wish to. There shall be no holds barred. Why exploit this forum? Why bring down the level of our democratic institutions?

If democracy is to survive in this country, we have to rise above such tricks of the trade.

We cannot permit witch-hunting in this country whosoever may be the party of the Government, whosoever may be in charge of the machinery of power, whosoever be elected by the people. If democracy is to survive in this country, we have to guard against witch-hunting. Americans have a glorious tradition. There was a phase in their history which blighted witch hunting. But then they recovered; they recovered to their glory and that era was over. We are heirs of the democratic tradition of the whole world as they are to ours; and we should have learnt a lesson. Democracy does not thrive on witch-hunting. It hits you back; it rebounds; it becomes counter-productive. The finger which tries this game burns. And that is what I would like the hon. Member, Shri Basheer to realise. My only question to the hon. Minister is that Mr. V.P. Singh is not the only Indian VIP to have a son working abroad or a son-in-law or a nephew or a nephew-in-law working abroad. Many VIPs have. I shall not name them. But, surely, the hon. Minister must have a list or can have a list if he wants. And many of them are working in banks also. I know that also. Many sons and sons-in-laws work in banks. Will he undertake to send out a similar notice and a directive to all such sons and son-in-laws of the VIPs working abroad, at least to those who are working in banks to produce a statement of assets—moveable and immovable? Hardly have we even discussed a question of an individual in this House? That is left for the Executive. But if you are doing it for one, do it for everyone. Go ahead. You bring a statement before the House, before the next Parliament if you come back to power. It should be detailed statement of a assets and properties held by all the sons and sons-in-laws of the VIPs past and present, of this country whose supposed savings far exceed their total income.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji): I rise to participate in the discussion the statement made by Shri Eduardo Faleiro yester-

[Sh. Shantaram Naik]

[*Translation*]

day. The elections are round the corner. I said it deliberately, because, according to the forces working abroad the man to watch and the most vulnerable man who is available to them is no other than the beneficiary of this A/c No. 29479-Mr. V.P. Singh. It may appear a little bit of exaggeration, but if we recollect all the facts which have been taking place in the last two years, we will find that there is no doubt that in some form or other the external forces are operating. Congressmen are always being ridiculed and fooled whenever they quote external forces in their speeches.

The other day, it had been proved that a force none other than CIA had an agent in a very very high position in this country. Even his suit for defamation was rejected.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani):
Whom are you referring to?

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: I don't think that was the point that you are referring to. I don't think that is the conclusion that you can draw from the failure of that case.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Do you know why the suit was dismissed. The suit was basically dismissed because the author of the book, according to the court, had relied upon certain authentic documents. Therefore, the suit was dismissed. But today I am afraid that CIA is indirectly entering into the election fray. I would advise CIA to register themselves as an election party before the Election Commission because in any way we are having direct fight with CIA in the name of Janata Dal or what not. This is virtually what is happening. Whatever I am saying now may look ridiculous, exaggerated, or whatever it is. Let us have one against one fighting, very popularly known as Congress versus CIA. Let us have it instead of one to one.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganji): Which has been questioned... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: "A traitor cannot become a leader".

[*English*]

If anyone has to become a leader, he has to be sincere. Some people were sincere. Here he has to continue to be sincere. Some of us have weaknesses whereby we cannot continue to be sincere. This twenty one million dollars deposited on six different occasions is a matter for investigation. Both Mr. V.P. Singh and Mr. Ajeya Singh have denied the existence of this account. This could be investigated easily whether the passports of Mr. V.P. Singh and Mr. Ajeya Singh were submitted to Mr. Mclean or not. The xerox copies of the passports perhaps are required according to the law and there the authenticity will be established.

Now Mr. Ajeya Singh says that his assets are half a million US dollars. A man was drawing 500 US \$ per month. Sir, in a place like the United States, one who draws 5000 US \$ per month is just in a junior position and it is very difficult for him even to make both ends meet. Yet half a million US \$ are his assets. Secondly, even his last posting was in a small branch of US Swiss Bank. And throughout his career, if we go through his history we will find that this man never rose to a substantial position to gain any substantial money. But he has flats in London, he has got bank deposits, shares and what not. I would request the hon. Minister that all those documents which are in possession with the Government today—the Government may get further documents in future—should be laid on the Table of the House so that the entire country can know about those documents. I wish and I hope that the hon. Minister will do it.

In fact, whether Mr. Ajeya Singh has violated FERA I do not know, but we shall have to go beyond FERA and find out how this money had come to the hands of Mr. Ajeya Singh. I would say that the investigation should be done from the angle of the

charge of sedition. A conspiracy is being laid and I am afraid that this amount perhaps is linked with some sort of a conspiracy. Therefore, not only FERA, but the relevant provisions of IPC should be invoked. When the directives were given to this man, he has dilly-dallying and he submitted his passport of 1987. As far as his earlier passports were concerned, he said that he had to find out where his earlier passports were. The earlier passports of Mr. Ajeya Singh will give the trace and evidence of his movement, where he was, in which country, at what time and what was he doing, specially his passports of the year 1986, when accounts were opened. So, I would like to know from the Government whether it has been able to get the earlier passports of Mr. Ajeya Singh to know about his past and also to know why has was dilly-dallying.

Mr. Ajeya Singh says that he has come to India in order to make himself available for inquiry. He has not come for the purpose of inquiry, he has now come with full directives directions and instructions from all his masters, whoever are there abroad, to operate in election area, to enter in election arena, to back his father, in whatever manner that is possible. It is because of that that he has come to India. It is coincidental that these facts have come out and coincidentally he now says that he has come for the sake of inquiry. But basically he has come to help his father.

St. Kitts otherwise is very notorious. It is so notorious that basically it is considered to be a heaven for tax evaders. It is known to be a laundry to make black money into white money. These are not the words just used by me, in international areas these words are known. So, this is the reputation of this St. Kitts bank.

This First Trust Bank Corporation have also nice ideas. They have got plans for Indians and for the citizens of other countries. Especially, Indians are mentioned in the investment plans of this First Trust Bank Corporation, and it is under this scheme of the bank that this money was invested and

utilised. There is a reputation of this bank that specially where the law of a country does not allow money to be taken out, this bank helps those persons at a commission to pay the money outside that country. They have got their own network as to how this money is to be brought from one country, where it is prohibited, to the other country and then it is paid in that country. Therefore, we have to find out as to what has happened, how this money was paid in that bank. The existence of the bank has not been denied. Subsequently I learn that it was wound up. Mr. Mclean otherwise is not just a hoax. He was also a man of reputation. His Board of Directors have high connections in government offices. Therefore, this bank had such plans of investment and of taking or pipelining money from countries which prohibit money to be taken out, and for that it charged commission. This aspect has also got to be investigated.

This Ajeya Singh has many times said that why action was not take against others, such as, Ajitabh or Win Chaddha. As far as I know, at least these Ajitabh, etc. were personally interrogated. Raids were conducted on this Win Chaddha. But so far this man has practically not been touched and has been allowed all the facilities of replying at his will, although he has not been cooperating with the agencies. He has not been giving the relevant passports which are basically required. And yet the has the audacity to quote other inquiries where much more interrogations were made.

17.00 hrs.

From another angle, it has to be seen that since this money was deposited in a bank in St. Kitts where these facilities are prevailing, what was the period during which this money had actually reached? Because it has to be investigated whether this money was originally paid in India, whether this money was paid during that relevant time. I do not like to say what the relevant time was. But I would say that the relevant time is well understood as to at what time this money was generated in this country and during which period so

[Sh. Shantaram Naik]

that subsequently through this Bank the money could safely go. We are proud of this country and that is why we say "Mera Bharat Mahan" Perhaps Mr. V.P. Singh might be saying "Mera Ladka Mahan". For him he has done such a thing that in a remote corner of the world he has kept the money very very safe and he comes now at the nick of time to help his father. His father will certainly say "Mera Ladka Mahan". Sir, the only ground Mr. Ajeya Singh says with respect to the account is "Oh! that account is bogus and the ground given is that the interest has not been calculated properly? Sir, a uniform system of interest calculation is not prevailing in the international accounting. He says that this account is bogus, this account was opened on a holiday and that he has not visited St. Kitts at that time. But Sir, it has been authentically told that for operation or for opening of such an account, none may have to go to St. Kitts, but the agents can go and do the work. The first ground given is that the the interest is not calculated properly. In all humbleness, I would say that the Government should go ahead with whatever evidence that is available with them right today and those documents should be laid on the Table of the House so that the whole country knows about this matter. Thank you.

[Translation]

PROF NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT (Chittorgarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Finance Ministers statement about the St. Kitts; account yesterday has put a big question mark and consequently the intelligentsia of our country wants the Government to unmask and expose such people. Sir, the King of Manda Shri V.P. Singh had dreamt of becoming the Prime Minister of our country and he committed reason by maligning the defence forces and bringing bad name to the country. He spoiled the image of our country. This has become clear from the hon. Finance Minister's statement which he made yesterday. The account and assets of such a person must be made public. When this news was published in the

Kuwait Times on August 22, 1989, everyone said that perhaps this news was wrong but when the facts came to light, we came to know that 21 million U.S. dollars were deposited in the secret account number 29479 at St. Kitts. And that money was deposited not once but in six instalments. On September 16, 1986 2 million dollars, on October 10, 1986 2 million dollars, on September 13, 1986 5 million dollars, on January 18, 3 million dollars, on January 24, 1987, 5 million dollars and on March 26, 1987, 21 million dollars were deposited. This makes it clear that there is lot of difference between what they preach and what they practice. It has become clear now that he was putting on the mask of an honest and saintly person. My submission is that the Government is not conducting appropriate investigation against Shri Ajeya Singh, an N.R.I. because there is no special provision in our Constitution or law for dealing with the Non-Resident Indians. We should not hesitate even if we have to amend the Constitution or introduce a new law. I want to submit that the clarification given by Shri Ajeya Singh does not dispel the doubts. The foremost question is when did Shri Ajeya Singh get this job. How did he buy such an expensive flat in London and how did he deposit so much money, when he was earning only 5 thousand U.S. dollars per month? He was sitting idle for 9 months. According to George Mc Lean of the First Trust Corporation Bank, St. Kitts, Shri V.P. Singh was nominated the beneficiary of the account in which money was deposited in the month of September 1986 and the address given was that of Allahabad whatever has been done is it proper? Why is Shri Ajeya Singh delaying the revelation of complete information? Why has he not produced his passport which was issued before 1987. Cannot such a wise person living abroad who deposited his money there, produce his passport which was issued to him before 1987 or has it been lost. Thus a clarification should be made about what they intend to hide. The people of the country want to know the real face of the person who is pretending to be a disciplined, honest and saintly man. I would emphatically demand from the Government to took into the affairs of Shri Vish-

wanath Pratap Singh, how could he succeed in depositing the large sums abroad through his son Shri Ajeya Singh and whether any foreign powers or C.I.A. is keeping an eye on our country. We should be informed that Shri Desai has lost the defamation suit he had filed against Shri Hersh. Are we going to be trapped again in the evil designs of the foreign powers? It is, therefore, necessary to pay attention in this regard? I would demand from the Government and the hon. Minister to make investigations about this account, who deposited the amount, when it was deposited and with what purpose. Both Shri V.P. Singh and Shri Ajeya Singh are saying that if they are guilty then why the Government does not launch prosecution against them. They know that our laws are silent about the non-resident Indians. I would like the Government to make the position clear in this regard. We have to take a judicious step and present the actual picture before the people. It matters little if it is made an election issue. What is more important is to know as to which way we are going and which powers, internal or foreign, want to destabilise our economy and want to create hindrances in our development process. We will have to suffer a great loss if we don't take proper steps against such forces. I would, therefore, emphatically demand from the Government to present the correct picture before this House and the masses by carrying out an investigation into St. Kitts Account No. 29479.

[English]

SHRI ASUTOSH LAW (Dum Dum): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this occasion. It is a matter of great concern for the country, in that even if I take it that it is alleged that Shri Ajeya Singh, son of Shri V.P. Singh, is maintaining an account and maintained an account in a foreign bank. It is a serious charge. It is serious in the sense of our country, we have got various legislations and laws, particularly in view of the FERA, no Indian can maintain any account in any foreign country. Therefore, the matter should be probed and it is the duty of the Government. I would like

to request the hon. Minister to bring out the real facts before the people.

Sir, I take cognisance from the newspaper reports and there is evidence to believe creating suspicion in the minds of the people that there is a foreign account which is being maintained by Shri Ajeya Singh, son of Shri V.P. Singh in St. Kitts. The account number is also disclosed in the newspaper. Even if I take it for argument's sake, if I mention the amount, it is not a very small amount, the amount is about 21 million US dollars. All this news came in a foreign newspaper on 20th August, 1989. The newspaper is called "The Arab Times" and it is a Kuwait newspaper. The same news was carried out in the Indian newspapers on 22nd August, 1989 and they have disclosed various particulars. It is not a false allegation or to malign any particular person, who is the son of the former Finance Minister of the country who was in power and who had every access to help his son. For argument's sake, I am not making any insinuation against anybody. It is very likely that a man who was in power could have helped his son to deposit money in the foreign bank—in clear violation of the FERA—and those facts have come out in that paper and have been carried in the Indian newspapers. The number and the total amount are also given in the newspapers. Even the period within which this 21 million US dollars were deposited in the foreign bank was also disclosed in the paper. So, now it is very significant that when this news came out in the newspapers, the former Finance Minister, hon. Mr. V.P. Singh, if I may say so, denied this charge. But the managing director of the Trust did not deny it. If we follow the events chronologically, we find that the Managing Director of the Trust did not deny the existence of such accounts in the foreign bank. He did not even deny that Indian is involved. Subsequently there was a denial which came out in the *Indian Express* but the fact remains that immediately after the publication of the news or disclosure of this fact, the Managing Director did not deny it. If that is so, I think, there is sufficient evidence before us and we are justified in demanding the Minister to disclose all facts before this

[Sh. Asutosh Law]

House so that the facts are very clear before us.

After this news was published in the newspaper, there was an interview with the bank solicitor. The bank solicitor did not deny it in so many words. Of course, there was a general denial on behalf of the bank regarding the existence of such account but there was no specific denial on behalf of the solicitor of the bank. That is also a very significant fact which has to be noted. Therefore, we want clarification and specific information from the hon. Minister.

For the last 2 1/2 years, in Parliament and outside Parliament, we have been hearing a lot of cock and bull story, sometimes allegations, concocted stories made by some Opposition people and we do not know what prompted the people to attack a particular Ministry, i.e. the Defence Ministry, which is the most sensitive sector of the country. We are facing this sort of attack from the Opposition for the last 2 1/2 years. Now this matter is a serious matter which concerns the finance of this country. After all, when 21 million dollars-foreign money are deposited in the name of an Indian in a foreign bank, that is a serious offence and that amounts to serious economic offence committed by the person who is maintaining this account. Therefore, for the sake of economic stability, as also to remove all doubts from the minds of the people, we are demanding in this House that the Minister should give us a clear picture of the facts. People of India like to know whether the son of the person who is alleging against the highest office of this country, is guilty of maintaining any account, foreign accounts in a foreign country, in violation of our country's law, in violation of FERA law or not. Definitely we have got every right to know whether the man who is claiming himself an honest man, his money is being maintained in the foreign bank accounts, in the name of his son or not. That is also required to be disclosed before this House. If these facts are not disclosed and if proper probe is not made, then doubts will

remain in the minds of the people. If Shri Ajeya Singh—whose name has been mentioned, whose name appears in a foreign bank—is maintaining the said account there, it is likely that he cannot go scot-free. He cannot go scot-free if he has committed this offence in violation of this country's law.

Sir, it is rather said that Shri Ajeya Singh is a qualified Chartered Accountant and as a Chartered Accountant, he earned that money. Now, he makes some alleged disclosures which show that some amount is being deposited in the foreign bank. But whether the bank account which is being maintained under the name and style of Shri Ajeya Singh, son of Shri V.P. Singh, belongs to him or not. The total amount deposited there amounts to US \$ 21 millions. This fact has not been clarified before us. Therefore, I think, this is the proper forum to raise this issue. I would request the hon. Minister that if any offence has been committed by maintaining such a bank account in a foreign bank to the tune of US \$ 21 million, then proper disclosure should be made before this House or a statement should be made by the hon. Minister clarifying the entire position in order to remove the doubts from our minds and also from the minds of the people of this country. At the same time, if it is found that there is an iota of evidence which shows that there is reason to believe that Shri Ajeya Singh has maintained account in the foreign bank—it is obvious that a new Chartered Accountant cannot earn US \$ 21 millions—then it should be found out as to when this amount was deposited in that bank. It should also be found out that at that relevant period, what was the position of his father, who was a very resourceful Minister, who was a very resourceful man in India. If anybody tries to find out certain nexus between the resourceful father and the new Chartered Accountant, he will not make any mistakes. If this position is not cleared, then the entire country will be under confusion. It is that man's money who himself calls an honest man, who has deposited that money in the name of his son. That is why we have come before this House to raise this issue. That is why, this discussion under Rule 193 is before this

House. We have no intention to malign any one. But we want to know the real position. If that money has been deposited in violation of the FERA law, then proper steps should be taken to get back that money. This country should not be allowed to be deprived of this money. No citizen of India should be allowed to violate FERA in this fashion— whoever he may be, whoever is his father or whoever is behind him.

Sir, I would also like to lay emphasis on another point. I would like to request the hon. Minister to find out as to whether it is only Shri Ajeya Singh, whether it is only Shri V.P. Singh or if there is any power behind it, the persons who are behind the curtain, who are trying to destabilise our country, who are trying to malign our Government. This fact has to be found out. It has to be found out whether any powerful mind is behind the curtain; whether any third power is behind the curtain who has helped Mr. Ajeya Singh to earn 21 million US dollars through some source. We do not know which source. Unless we find out who is the man behind, which is the third force behind the curtain, the entire country will be at stake. It will help us to know which power has been encouraging the opposition, encouraging the so-called honest man for the last two and a half years to attack the most sensitive department of defence. Even a boy will understand this. Starting from German Submarines, Fairfax and the last is Bofors, these were the three subjects which were made most prominent issues in this House for the last two and a half years. Is there no other problem in our country? Am I to take it that defence was the only problem, Bofors was the only problem, Fairfax was the only main issue or the German Submarines was the only main issue? Nobody came forward. Opposition is not here. I think, I should not say anything about opposition. But I cannot resist myself. I just recall those days. They had spent two and a half years in this august House at the cost of the millions of our people, with this luxury. We have not said anything. No person had said about other problems of our country. Why should they repeatedly talk about defence? The natural inference one has to

draw is that there is a power behind it which is pulling the string and the people are still dancing outside the Parliament and trying to destabilise this country. Now this fact has come to light that the honourable, honest man's son maintained an account in a foreign bank with 21 million US dollars. It is not an unconnected or disenchanted fact. It is correlated. Whether it is correlated or not whether the power has played a big role, whether money has been paid for consideration, for playing such a role, these are the facts which we would like to know. I think, as one of the citizens of this democratic country, to whichever party may I belong, I have got to know the real facts.

With these words, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak on this issue. I have been in America for a long time and I was employed there. I know the extent of saving possible for a man there. In foreign exchange one thousand dollars mean fifteen thousand rupees. But infact, its purchasing value in that country is equal to that of one thousand rupees or even less than that in India. The earning of Shri Ajeya Singh in America was about 500 dollars or slightly more. But then, how did he collect the huge sum of 21 million dollars within 2-3 years? It comes to about 34-35 crores of rupees or slightly more than that. No one can get this much of amount even in the lottery. It is possible only if someone's father is the Finance Minister or the Defence Minister.

I would like to refer only two three points and will not take much time. The matter is more serious than what it looks at its face value. From 1987, Shri V.P. Singh assumed holier than thou' attitude throughout. He tried to present himself as Mahatma Gandhi and all the rest as Nathu Ram Godse. He posed himself as Mahatma Gandhi for a Photograph and started raising voice against the NRIs. He has made a reference to this in this House also. Did he make any mention at that time to that of his son and the amount deposited by him abroad? A reasonable person

[Dr. G.S. Rajhans]

can never accumulate such an huge amount of wealth through just and honest means. A Chartered Accountant has no importance in America. Had he been a doctor in private practise there even then he would not have been able to accumulate so much of money. I can say it with full confidence that this money has been given to him by some foreign agency to destabilise the country. It is the duty of the Government of India to expose that agency which wants to destabilise our country. Today we know only one Ajeya Singh, God knows how many more Ajeya Singh's are there. All such persons should be brought to the book. There is no problem in that because in America one has to file his tax return. We may get all the details in this regard. American newspapers can also prove helpful in this matter since they have taken up to investigating journalism. This is not an ordinary but a very serious matter. You may recall that when this matter was reported in the press a few months back that Ajeya Singh s/o Shri V.P. Singh is also maintaining his account abroad, members of Janata Dal emphatically denied the charge and said that such things are being brought simply to divert the attention of the people from the main issues. But today it has been proved. It is surprising that the son is having the photostat copy of his father's passport. You cannot have the photostat copy of the passport, rules are very clear in this regard. His father was given a diplomatic passport. How this has been done? My wife or my son cannot take my passport. This is not possible without connivence of the passport holder. There is a difference between what he says and what he does. It is now high time that we should expose the deeds of such leaders. We are passing through a very delicate situation. Masses of this country will never forgive our Government if they are not convinced about the factual position. I would, therefore, like to request the Government to carry out an investigation in the matter and bring the facts before the people. Shri V.P. Singh has not denied this charge. It is requested that the investigations he carried out and facts should be brought to the book.

Nobody should be allowed to mislead the people.

I will not take much time, because there other Members also who have to speak in this subject. There may be other subjects also which are likely to be taken up for discussion today. May be, it is the last day or last but one day of this Lok Sabha. I would request the Government to take steps to find out the facts and I believe that the Government can do it within two or three months if they so desire. There should be no hesitation on the part of the Government and they should make efforts to see that the people are apprised of the facts in the matter. With these words I conclude.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the House will recall that sometime around the month of August last several newspapers published reports relating to the maintenance of bank account in St. Kitts, a Caribbean Island by Shri Ajeya Singh, S/o Shri V.P. Singh, in which account huge sums totalling US \$ 21 million were deposited. Now, on the basis of these different press reports and also on the basis of other information that was available with the Directorate of Enforcement, since Shri Ajeya Singh himself came to India sometime on 10th or 11th September 1989, the Directorate decided to get necessary information from him regarding the material available. So, the Directorate issued to him a directive to give information on the points which were mentioned there. The directive has been mentioned by me in my main statement. But we found that while some information was provided, some information on relevant particulars was not provided. Therefore, a second directive was issued. Recently, we got the reply to the second directive also. But, then from the second directive also, we find that the information is not complete. As a matter of fact, Shri Ajeya Singh has asked for time, he has said that he needs more time to get

the information sought from him.

In the context of what has been mentioned by some of the hon. Members here, I would like at the outset to say that, firstly, there has been no discrimination, whatsoever, in dealing with Shri Ajeya Singh. Cases have been mentioned of other persons. I would like to say in those cases which are appearing in the press reports, in fact, not merely the steps but further steps were taken to obtain information. There is no question of discrimination against him. Any person who falls within the parameters of what has appeared in this case, any person who falls within the parameters where information can be obtained regarding the violation of FERA, that person will be dealt with, at least in the same manner and the things that we have asked for in this questionnaire are matters that are no exception in this case. There is no discrimination in this case; there has not been and there will not be. Everybody will be treated equally; has been treated equally, as far as procedures and law of FERA are concerned.

I would like to say, here, in this context, that we have no reason to doubt the genuineness at this point of time; there is nothing to show that the information which I have supplied to this House in my statement is not genuine. The information as it appears, appears to be genuine. However, we are continuing with the investigations and the investigations are in progress, because in view of the NRI status of Shri Ajeya Singh, certain protection under FERA is available to him. Offences which would be offences for an Indian resident in India will not be an offence for NRI. Therefore further links, further ingredients to constitute an offence under FERA, have to be determined and the evidence available also has to be further strengthened or further steps have to be taken to obtain further confirmation, if possible. Also we have no reason to deny the genuineness of these documents and this account where Shri V P Singh is shown as the beneficiary and Shri Ajeya Singh as the account holder. As a matter of fact before I conclude my reply I will be laying on the

Table of the House these documents—the safe keeping agreement which shows the signatures of Shri V P Singh as a beneficiary and Shri Ajeya Singh as the account holder. I will also lay on the Table of the House a copy of numbered account agreement containing signatures of both Shri Ajeya Singh and Shri V. P. Singh. But before I do that I would like to say that Shri Ajeya Singh being an NRI, offence has to be established against him and further information has to be obtained so that the ingredients are fulfilled; and as far as Shri V P Singh is concerned though his purported signature is there and shown as beneficiary at the given point of time, there is nothing to indicate that he was in a position to operate the account or the right to operate the account accrued at that point of time and, therefore, investigations must proceed.

17.43 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*Translation*]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIKAGI: What position was Shri V.P. Singh enjoying in India at that point of time. What portfolio was he having when he put his signatures on the agreement.

[*English*]

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: I am putting the factual position and this is the factual position. As I have said we need further information and we have asked for further information *inter alia* from Shri Ajeya Singh himself. He has asked for time to submit this information. At this stage all that can be said definitely is that 'yes' on the evidence available the point made by the hon. Members that the assets disclosed by Shri Ajeya Singh himself appear to be clearly disproportionate to his sources of income, to his known sources of income or to the sources of income as disclosed by him.

Shri Ajeya Singh has said that for a period of time he was, in fact, unemployed.

[Sh. Eduardo Faleiro]

He has said that his last salary in Dollars 55,000 or figures to that effect. Now this is a small amount considering the standard of living in the city where he is working, that is, New York. He was with a company named Tradition Berisford which contains same name of the company, namely, Compande Financiere Tradition, Lausanne, a Swiss company. Therefore, the name is same and also the amount of last salary and keeping in mind further that at that point of time he was unemployed or without means of income of his own, his assets as disclosed in terms of bank deposits, immovable property like a flat in London, in terms of shares in different companies and organisations definitely appear to be disproportionate. It is disproportionate if we look at this known sources of income or sources of income as disclosed by him.

As far as the genuineness of St. Kitts account is concerned there is no reason at this point of time to doubt it. I would like to point out that in a section of the Press two persons were quoted who were working in the First Trust Corporation, namely, Miss Anne Salvesen, who was Secretary or Executive Assistant to the Managing Director, Mr. McLean as well as Mr. Terence V Byron, who was also the nominee director and solicitor of the First Trust Corporation. These were quoted in reports from New York or United States published in a section of the Press.

The effect of what these two persons were said to have stated was that they were not aware of any such account, that there was no such account or things to that effect, basically denying or challenging the genuineness of the account. Now we have the statements of these two persons in writing. Anne Salvesen, for instance, has said among other things:

"The First Trust Corporation Limited was actively engaged in business communications and dealings with several Indian citizens, some resident

in India, some elsewhere.

The First Trust Corporation Limited produced and circulated promotional literature regarding a 'Special Investment Programme in Co-operation With Indian Nationals', which provided for Indian nationals to make investments in St. Kitts through The First Trust Corporation Limited which investments were made and held by non-resident Indians."

She has further said in this manner:

"I am aware that during the second half of 1986, Mr. McLean personally accepted a large deposit from a foreign depositor for the First Trust Corporation Limited.

I have been misquoted in certain newspaper stories written by Mr. A. Balu and Mr. Lynn Hudson. I have never told anyone that an account numbered 29479 did not exist in The First Trust Corporation Limited. While I have been quoted as stating: 'I know that such an account did not exist', I actually told Mr. Hudson: 'I do not know whether such an account existed'.

She has further said:

"Under the operating procedures of The First Trust Corporation Limited, it was, to my knowledge, possible for a numbered account to be opened and operated by an agent in the absence of the principal or beneficiary."

So, this goes against the points made to show that the account was not genuine. The very persons who were quoted in support of challenging this account have now come out with that statement. This is the statement of Anne Salvensen.

Then, we have the statement also of Mr. Terence V. Byron who has also been quoted in a similar manner in the earlier reports that Salvensen refers to now. I quote from the

written statement of Mr. Byron. He has said:

"I have personal knowledge that The First Trust Corporation Limited produced and circulated a promotional document regarding a 'Special Investment Program In Co-operation with Indian Nationals', which provided for Indian citizens resident in India to make investments in St. Kitts through The First Trust Corporation Limited which investments were to be made and held by nominees who were non-resident Indians.

I have personal knowledge that Mr. McLean, on behalf of The First Trust Corporation Limited had active business communication and dealings with several Indian citizens, some resident in India, some elsewhere."

He further says:

" I have been misquoted in certain newspaper stories written by Mr. A Balu and Mr. Lynn Hudson. I have never told anyone that an account numbered 29479 did not exist in The First Trust Corporation Limited, as I have no way of knowing what accounts, if any, existed at the company.

Under the operating procedures of The First Trust Corporation Limited, it was possible for a numbered account to be opened and operated by an agent in the absence of the principal or beneficiary of the account.

Subsequent to the time at which I was informed of the allegations related to the instant matter by representatives of the press, I have seen correspondence which on its face discloses a statement by Mr. McLean of his involvement in a numbered account with the two gentlemen named in your above-referenced letter to me, to wit: V.P. Singh and Ajeya Singh."

So, these are the very people who were

quoted as challenging the genuineness of the account. These are the people who have given statements under their signatures. There are signed statements given by them.

As required by the Members, I am laying on the Table the statements of Anne Salvesen...

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, the Minister just now said that will lay certain documents on the Table of this House. I would like to have a simple clarification. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government have in their possession the originals of those documents or merely the photostats of those documents.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: No, these are the copies. The originals are there as far as the statements are concerned.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Are the original documents with you?

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Of the statements.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Of whatever documents you are laying on the Table of the House?

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Not all. Some of the documents....

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Then, Mr. Deputy Speaker, photostat or photostats which are in the possession of the Government should not be tabled.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: It is not photostat or photostates. I am very sorry. Let me tell you that I am laying on the Table the following documents. Firstly, statements made by Ms Anne Salevesen and Terence V. Byron of which the originals are with us. These are copies. I am also laying on the Table the 'Safe-keeping agreement long form' signed by Mr. Ajeya Singh and Mr. V.P. Singh. They are copies.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Are the originals with you?

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: The originals by their very nature cannot be with us. They have got to be with the Bank. That is point number one.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (PROF. K.K. TEWARI): Sir, in response to what the hon. Member has said, I would like to say that any document laid on the Table of the House by the Government should be respected because Government does it on its responsibility. There is no question of authenticity. It cannot be questioned. (Interruptions)

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: I am asking if the Government are the originals of the documents before the copies are laid on the Table of the House. Please clarify this....(Interruptions)...Obviously, you have the original documents, in some cases, in other you have only photostat copies. (Interruptions)

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: He is entitled to ask this question and it is my duty to answer his query. Firstly, I am laying on the Table, as I have said, the statement* made by Anne Saleven. I have just erased the name of the officer of the enforcement to whom it is addressed because that is never done. It is a copy but the original with us. I am also laying on the Table the statement* made by Terence V. Byron. Similarly, the name has been erased but the original is with us. I am also laying on the Table the 'Safe-keeping agreement long form*' which is a photostat copy of which the original cannot be, by its very nature, with us. It is with the Bank but it is certified by the Bank and the certificate of the Bank is there. Apart from the Safe-keeping agreement long form, I am also laying on the Table, the number of the accounts and agreement* similarly certified by the First Trust Corporation, of which, by their very nature, the originals cannot be in our possession. I am also laying on the Table the

deposit forms* of each of these amounts mentioned by me, i.e., two million dollars, two million dollars, five million dollars, three million dollars, five million dollars and four million dollars, of which the original deposit forms will be with the parties concerned but the records will be with the Bank and it is the copy of the record duly certified and entered at the time when the deposits were made. Hon. Members will, of course, inspect all these documents which I have laid on the Table. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINE MISHRA (Salem-pur): Sir, the people of this country wants to know the figures of the deposits made by Shri Ajeya Singh and his father Shri V.P. Singh in the Account operated in a foreign Bank.

[English]

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, what I have given is a factual information and I do not think that at this stage I should go further into the matter. Investigations, for the reasons mentioned by me at the very outset, are in progress.

PROF. K.K. TEWARI: Sir, this is a very important matter. Now it has been proved that Mr. V.P. Singh and his son have foreign accounts and millions of dollars. My hon. friend wanted to know the exact figure. It works out, perhaps according to the facts given by the Minister, around Rs. 32 crores in Indian currency. (Interruptions)

So, whatever has been stated now on the floor of the House is a repudiation of the statements made by Mr. V.P. Singh on the Floor of the House and also outside. Mr. V.P. Singh's son himself has disclosed in one of the interviews to the 'Illustrated Weekly' that he was working as a coolie at a petrol pump station. How can a coolie purchase a house in a polish locality in London? From 1977 to 1983, Shri V. P. Singh's son said that he was financially down and out, but during the

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same period he made huge deposits in foreign banks, purchased a house without disclosing source of his income.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: On a point of order. Can we have a discussion after the Minister has replied?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He is asking a clarification.

PROF. K.K. TEWARI: Without disclosing his source of income, he purchased debentures in a blue chip company, Bombay Reliance, which Shri V.P. Singh had refuted in this House.

Similarly, Shri V.P. Singh himself has disclosed his property in Delhi, but in a very lever manner he did not disclose dates when the properties were acquired in Delhi and the exact source of his income. I had alleged that the total property in his name—I am not talking of the benami property held by him in Delhi—would have been worth Rs. 20 crores. All these matters are very very important and I would like to know from the Minister what action he is going to take.

It is not enough to disclose all this information on the floor of the House. It is a commendable thing that the Minister has gone into all the details in a very short period of time. You have exposed one of the most unscrupulous persons in the country who has been masquerading as an idealist. I demand that an immediate enquiry must be ordered into all this.

In fact, the charge was levelled by Shri Shahabuddin from the opposition side, when Shri V.P. Singh was the Finance Minister. He misused his position and got a job for his son in the City Bank of America. A boy who was working as a mere coolie on a petrol pump, how did he manage to get the present job that he is holding in the City Bank of America. From a mere coolie at a petrol pump, he became an executive in one of the top world banks.

These are matters which need deep investigation and the country is entitled to know the facts...*(Interruptions)* Shri V.P. Singh is a ** He collaborated with Haji Mastan...

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: I protest; this word should not be used.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: That would not go on record.

PROF. K.K. TEWARI: The Government should order a high-powered enquiry and immediate action must be taken against his son, because they are collaborators with foreign forces. During Shri V.P. Singh's tenure as Finance Minister, he had collected this money from public sector companies and private sector companies in London. He was bribed; he collected this bribe and all this money was deposited in the bank. Therefore, legal action must be taken and an enquiry must be held. Let the country know the real face of Shri V.P. Singh's son. No attempt should be made to shield this man. We would like to know what action you are contemplating to take....*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I would not allow like this. You tell what you want.

PROF. K.K. TEWARI: Definite action should be spelt out on the floor of the House. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He wanted to have a clarification. You say whatever you want to say. Then only we can proceed.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: We have noted down the points, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Hundred and Eighty-fifth, Hundred and Eighty-sixth and Hundred and Eighty-seventh Reports

SHRI R.S. SPARROW (JULLUNDER): I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee:

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

*Not recorded.