

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED DISAPPEARANCE OF DOCUMENTS RELATING TO MARUTI LIMITED

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : (Diamond Harbour) : I call the attention of the Minister of Finance and Revenue and Banking to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

"Reported disappearance of several important papers and documents relating to Maruti Limited from the Regional Office of the Central Bank of India, New Delhi and suppression of that information for three years".

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL) : Mr. Speaker Sir, the Central Bank of India has reported that one file containing correspondence and other papers concerning the account of Maruti Limited covering the period from December, 1971 to January 1974 is missing from the bank's Regional Office at New Delhi. The Bank states that this loss was detected by the Regional Office in May, 1974 but was reported to the Central Office only in May, 1977. The Bank has further reported that since almost all proposals and transactions were referred to or sanctioned and reported by its Regional Office, Delhi to its Central Office, Bombay, copies of most of the relevant papers are available either at the Branch or at the Central Office. The Central Bank of India has further reported that material papers such as security documents required for recovery of Bank's dues or sanction advices to identify the sanctioning authority are not missing. The Chief Internal Auditor of the Bank has been asked to look into the matter with a view to reconstructing the File. The Central Bank of India has further reported that its Central Office has ordered an inquiry into the matter.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : Sir, the hon. Minister, the other day had said that Mr. Sanjay Gandhi cannot be arrested. I am saying this on my responsibility that the statement stating that the file was lost in 1974 is incorrect. Sir, I have definite and positive information from a person who had been a very big executive in the Bank, who says that Mr. Sanjay Gandhi, with the help of Mr. K. L. Kalra,

a bank official, but in fact, functioning as the special representative of Mr. Sanjay Gandhi in the Bank has done it. They had done it immediately when they understood that in the elections, the people are going to reject them. I am repeating that Mr. Sanjay Gandhi with Mr. K. L. Kalra has removed the file and the documents from the Bank and that was in the third week of March. Mr. Kalra had received at least two transfer orders from the Bank during the Indira regime and those orders were cancelled by Mr. Sanjay Gandhi. But now, of course, after the massive defeat in March elections, after two months of that, Mr. Kalra has been transferred to Hyderabad. The hon. Finance Minister can verify and come with a statement again.

The bank's regional office was shifted in 1976. The House would be interested to know whether in the transportation list which had shown the files and documents which were to be shifted this particular file was shown as having been shifted from the Parliament Street Office to the new office in Link House. This will reveal whether it was 1974 theft or 1976 theft. Yes; perhaps you may find it in the list. But I assure you that that was also another 420 done by Sanjay Gandhi through Kalra, who was his operator in the bank. It is not at all surprising to me. The frozen accounts of Maruti Ltd. amounted to a paltry sum of Rs. 25,000, while the loans advanced by the Punjab National Bank and Central Bank of India amounted to Rs. 1.55 crores. This is the position. You would, remember, Sir, that Sanjay Gandhi was removing papers from his factory surreptitiously. The workers had caught hold of him and called the police. So, he was unable to remove those papers. This is nothing new. He has been doing it extensively all over.

The files and papers contained a number of slips, chits etc. coming from Sanjay Gandhi and from Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister.

AN HON. MEMBER : If then Prime Minister.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : Of course, the then Prime Minister. Mr. Patel, tell me, how will you reconstruct that file? I am not so well conversant with secretarial procedures as you are. But I cannot understand how slips, notes, chits written in pencils in scribbles etc. would be shown in your parallel file in Bombay. Are the notes and chits also going to Bombay? No. So, you would not be able to re-construct a correct and

truly representative file of what has been stolen by Sanjay Gandhi with the help of Kalra. The Home Minister can immediately set the machinery in motion to see that those who organised the theft of the file are immediately dealt with properly.

See the Fun. Kalra is transferred to Hyderabad in May, two months after the elections and the file is reported missing in May 77. It tallies nicely. As soon as Kalra went away, the matter is reported. As long as he was there, it was not reported.

National Herald took overdraft : but I am not going into that detail now. Sanjay Gandhi wanted an overdraft of Rs. 2.5 crores from the then Chairman of the Central Bank of India, Mr. Taneja. As usual, he was short-circuiting the procedure. There was no technical report. The total project was valued at Rs. 30 crores. The bank inspection team consisting of the Chairman himself, went to Gurgaon and found practically nothing, except one or two odd machinery. The application was rejected. Then, Sanjay Gandhi wanted Rs. 25 lakhs from the Central Bank for Maruti Technical Consultancy Services Ltd. With his brilliant genius, why does Sanjay Gandhi need capital for the brain for technical consultancy? Technical Consultancy wanting money—I want to know about this. When the Chairman refused the overdraft, the then Prime Minister sent for him—Mr. Taneja—to No. 1, Safdarjung Road and he was given a good ‘dressing’. Then, he was got rid of. This is the position. You should enquire into the matter, Mr. Patel. If you feel that man was straight, good and just, you may bring him back. If not you may discard him. I am not recommending anybody’s case. Sir, the Finance Ministry recommended for extension of four years for him, but Mrs. Gandhi rejected it. The same thing happened with NDMC Chairman. Mr. Chabra whose termination was done over telephone from Simla by Mrs. Indira Gandhi at the insistence of Sanjay Gandhi and Arjan Das. That is the fact. Then the funniest thing is that the Central Bank in order to get certain direction on a certain crisis convened a meeting and the then Finance Minister, Mr. C. Subramaniam—I don’t want to call him a jelly fish. It would not be nice—refused to preside over it and he ran away from the issue. He did not agree to sit. Regarding Mr. Talwar’s

resignation why was he thrown out? Because he refused to give an overdraft of Rs. 9 crores to Alok Jain, who is a close friend of Sanjay Gandhi and also one-time friend of Rukshana Sultana.

MR. SPEAKER : There is a point of order now. The Prime Minister is raising a point of order.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI) : The Calling Attention Notice refers to missing papers. Now, here is the whole history of Maruti and their doings. I do not know how that is relevant to this. That is my point of order and I will request you to decide.

MR. SPEAKER : I would suggest to you now not to raise the other things which are not connected with this. If it is about the file you can mention, but you are mentioning other things.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : Sir, here is an official of the Central Bank conniving with Sanjay Gandhi to get the file stolen from the premises. Does it not show how the bank functions? For example, they gave an overdraft to a phoney company where Mrs. Pranab Mukherjee wife of Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, is a Director in Calutta.

MR. SPEAKER : That is not relevant to this. This file is different.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : Why they have stolen the file? It shows that the total accumulated liability, i.e., secured loans, as on 31st March 1976, is Rs. 58,35,000 and odd, unsecured loans are Rs. 1,59,65,390, current liabilities and provisions are Rs. 3,69,60,037. Naturally files have to be stolen. I must justify the motive.

MR. SPEAKER : There is a lot of time for that. Now, come to the main question.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : My question is whether the hon. Finance Minister has any information that Mr. K. L. Kalra, an official of the Central Bank of India in fact acting as an agent of Sanjay Gandhi in the bank has conspired with Sanjay Gandhi to remove the file and whether it is shown in the list when the regional office was shifted from Parliament Street office to Link House, and thirdly, whether this Kalra has been transferred to Hyderabad in the month of May.

SHRI H. M. PATEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I shall confine myself only to the missing file. As I explained, the fact that the file was missing was discovered in 1974. I think it was in May 1974.

[Shri H. M. Patel]

That was by an officer of the bank who was then dealing with the matter and this had been discovered from certain notings in another file which exists. I said that the file can be reconstructed. I will explain that point first. All that can be reconstructed is whatever papers will be in the Branch office which used to write to the Regional office on this matter. The papers in the Branch Office exist. Similarly, whatever reports etc would go for sanction and so on to the Central office from the Regional Office would be available so that all the relevant papers in so far as the sanctions etc. are concerned would be available.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Cheques and slips won't be available.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: What will not be available is certainly the kind of things that you have mentioned, that is to say, the notings in the Regional Office in dealing with applications for loans etc. Those would be in that missing file only. I did not quite understand what was the suggestion of hon. Member.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: After discussions were held and after a decision was taken, the noting were got corrected from upstairs.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: I would like to confine myself to the relevant points by 're-construction' of the file. I only meant certain essential papers relating to loans, relating to sanctions and relating to re-payments. All these can be found either from the Central office or from the branch office.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: From 1974 to 1977 what were you doing.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: I never intervened or interjected when Mr. Jyotirmoy Bosu spoke. I would request him to let me say. Whatever I want to say. After I have spoken, if the Speaker permits he can speak.

MR. SPEAKER: He would not get a chance. That is why he is interrupting.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: This file concerned one loan and one guarantee and that loan has been paid, and the guarantee also has been discharged. The file is missing. That part is correct. As it so happens, it has no relevance on other outstandings of Maruti Ltd. in regard to the figures that were mentioned by the hon. Member, i.e. so far as the Central Bank is concerned they have an outstanding loan of Rs. 21-odd lakhs; and it is fully covered

by machinery etc. which have been hypothesized against it. So I think as far as the bank is concerned, there is nothing more that the bank can do in regard to the missing file. He asks also whether this was a file which figured in the list of files and list of papers that were moved from one office to the other. But as I said, the missing of the file was discovered in May, 1974. (Interruptions) that is a point I cannot answer. These are the facts as reported to me, that the report was made in May, 1974. Beyond that I cannot say. So far as Mr. Kalra is concerned, it is a fact that he was transferred recently to Hyderabad two months ago. Mr. Kalra was the chief development officer in the regional office. This is all the information that I have. Whether he was associated with anybody, I cannot say.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: On a point of order. He has not clarified, nor given a satisfactory reply to the question why a file which was missing in May 1974, was not reported till 1977. Let him clear that; my allegations will be met.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not a point of order. The question is not answered; that is all.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: I have answered. It is an answer which I cannot give, because even the bank is not in a position to give. And my source of information is the bank. At this point of time, it is not possible. An enquiry is going on.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Mani Ram Bagri is not here. Mr. Yuvaraj is not here. Mr. Anant Dave is not here. We will now go to the next item. Mr. Sathe.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): I have also given a notice under rule 377. I will keep a watch on those who are being allowed to raise it.

MR. SPEAKER: So many members have given notice. You cannot raise it unless I call you.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I will wait till I am called.

MR. SPEAKER: No, I cannot call you.

11:20 hrs.

STATEMENT RE ALLEGED INCIDENT AT PALAM AIRPORT ON 1-7-77 RELATING TO SHRI SANJAY GANDHI AND HIS WIFE.