[श्री शिव चन्द्र झा]

वर्ल्ड बैंक से यह एक्सप्लेनेशन मांगा है कि बैंक रेट को 1 परसेंट क्यों बढ़ाया गया है और इस सम्बन्ध में अविकसित मुल्कों के सामने जो दिक्कतें आयेंगी, उन के लिए वर्ल्ड बैंक कौनसा दूसरा रास्ता अख्त्यार करने जा रहा है । सरकार ने इस विधेयक के स्टेटमेंट आफ आवजैक्ट्स एण्ड रीजन्स में इन बारे में कोई सफाई नहीं दी है । इस स्थिति में स्पेशल ड्राइंग राइट्स के इस्तैमाल के लिए इस स्कीम को कार्यान्वित करने के खर्च के लिए कुछ चार्जिज लगाना मुनासिब नहीं होगा ।

मैं चाहूंगा कि जब तक सरकार की तरफ से इस बारे में सफाई न दी जाये, तब तक इस विधेयक को रोक लिया जाये ।

MR. SPEAKER: The question is . . .

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the International Monetary Fund and Bank Act, 1945."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P. C. SETHI: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

11.15 hrs.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION BY MEMBER

SHRIMATI SHARDA MUKERJEE (Ratnagiri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I met you this morning in your chamber to ask for your permission to make a personal explanation. I had also shown you the statement which I want to make. Kindly allow me to make a personal explanation.

MR. SPEAKER: It will be better if you lay it on the Table of the House.

SHRIMATI SHARDA MUKERJEE: It will not take much time, just five minutes.

MR. SPEAKER: All right.

SHRIMATI SHARDA MUKERJEE: Sir, under Rule 357 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I beg leave to make a Personal Explanation in regard to certain baseless allegations made about me by Shri Bhupesh Gupta in the Rajya Sabha yesterday, on 29th August, 1969, while speaking in the course of the debate on the Report of the Industrial Licensing Policy Inquiry Committee.

I am indeed reluctant to take up the time of the House but I shall be as brief as possible. The report mentions my name among a number of others, to cite examples of expeditious disposal of industrial licences. I would just like to state the facts. Quite simply, the facts are as follows:—

My husband, the late Air Marshal Mukerjee died in November, 1960. Sometime in January, 1961, I started working with my father, the late Shri Pratap Pandit and my brothers, Shri Gokul Pandit and Shri Vasant Pandit in the family business in Bombay, namely, Western India Tanneries Ltd., which has been in existence for about fifty years.

Sometime in early 1961, we applied to the Government of India for an industrial licence for the manufacture of phosphoric acid and industrial phosphates. To the best of my recollection, the application contained mine and my brother's name. Here, I may mention that my brother, Shri Gokul Pandit is a qualified Chemical Engineer. I remember that he put my name first as he thought I required a new interest in life to boost my morale and self-confidence after the tragic loss I had suffered.

I may add here that in 1961, I was not a Member of Parliament nor did I expect to be one.

The initial licence granted in 1961 was for a production capacity of 1100 tonnes of Phosphoric Acid. Our technical advisers in connection with this project were the world renowned firm of Messrs Albright & Wilson Ltd. of U.K. And it was their definite view that a project with such limited capacity would be al-

together uneconomic. Our efforts to get sanction for a higher productive capacity finally succeeded when, after three years, the Government of India agreed to sanction a capacity 17,500 tonnes of phosphoric acid, expressed in P_2O_5, together with sanction to manufacture its principal product Sodium Tripolyphosphate. Furthermore, for the economic viability of even this project, it was necessary to have an assured supply of sulphuric acid and to market a part of the phosphoric acid as such (in concentrated form) for the manufacture of phosphatic fertilisers. For these reasons, and also for assuring to the concern both technological expertise as well as capital resources of the magnitude required, it was decided by my family to set it up as a joint project in collaboration with Messrs Albright & Wilson Ltd. on the one hand and Messrs Dharamsi Morarji Chemical Co. Ltd. on the other.

Eventually, in 1965, the unit known as Albright Morarji and Pandit Ltd., located at Ambernath near Bombay, was set up and the Industrial Licence was transferred to this concern. The Company went into production in 1967. It is evident from this that there was a time-lag of six years between the original date of application of the Industrial Licence and the actual commencement of production.

Further, I submit that my family, the Pandits and their collaborators, Messrs. Dharamsi Morarji Chemical Co. Ltd. were the promoters of the company and are today represented on the Board of Directors of the Company along with representatives of Messrs. Albright & Wilson Ltd. And the Company is directly managed by its Board of Directors.

In brief, on the completion of collaboration negotiations with the foreign collaborators, Messrs. Albright & Wilson Ltd. of England, the new company under the name of Albright Morarji & Pandit Ltd. came into being, upon which, the Licence was transferred to the Company without any monetary consideration and with the full approval of the Government of India. The question of monetary or any other consideration did not arise when there was equity participation by me and my family and a share in the responsibility of promoting and running the Company.

I was a director of Albright, Morarji & Pandit Ltd. from its inception till 1966 by which time my Parliamentary and public work had increased to an extent where it became impossible for me to devote sufficient time to the affairs of the company. I, therefore, resigned my directorship in favour of my younger brother, Shri Vasant Pandit.

I, therefore, assert without fear of contradiction that the following allegations made by Shri Bhupesh Gupta are wholly unfounded and totally baseless:—

1. That I or my brother, Shri Pandit, engage ourselves in procurement and disposal of licences.

2. Specifically that we transferred the industrial licence for phosphoric acid to the concern mentioned above for a consideration of Rs. 10 lakhs or for any consideration.

3. That I have been guilty of deliberate misrepresentation of fact when I wrote to him in his capacity as Editor of the *New Age* that I did not traffic in industrial licences.

Finally, I have never applied for nor tried to procure industrial licences on any other occasion, much less to dispose of them for a monetary or any other consideration.

I find it difficult to understand the growing tendency to indulge in slanderous attacks on colleagues. I submit that this can set in motion a dangerous and unhealthy trend of conventions which may negate the rights and privileges of Members of Parliament to function freely as representatives of their electorates and to work for the cause of national interest.

श्री अर्जुन सिंह भदौरिया (इटवा) : उन्होंने अपना स्पष्टीकरण पेश करके और अपना डिस्क्रीडिट किया है ।

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): It would have been better if she had made the statement two days before, because the Rajya Sabha adjourned yesterday.

SHRIMATI SHARDA MUKERJEE: Mr. Bhupesh Gupta spoke only yesterday.

MR. SPEAKER: They would be meeting again; it is not that they have adjourned for all the time.

It would be better if members of both Houses do not cast reflections on each other. It would be a very unhealthy practice if those members attack the members of this House and if members of this House attack the members of that House. We should observe certain Parliamentary conventions.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Yesterday we wanted a statement to be made on the situation in Uttar Pradesh. You must have read in the newspaper that the President met the leaders of the Opposition, including Shri Charan Singh, Leader of the BKD, yesterday and he has asked for a report from the Governor of U.P. Now, I think, the Home Minister will have no objection to make a statement here. (*Interruptions*) Today is the last day. The Home Minister should make a statement. I do not want any debate (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have received your letter. I have forwarded it to the Home Minister for a statement.

With the permission of the House, I would first take up the motions for reference to Select/Joint Committees.

11.25 hrs.

TAXATION LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL

MR. SPEAKER: As far as item No. 20 is concerned, the motion is that it be referred to a Select Committee. The names are given.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI P. C. SETHI): Sir, there are some changes in the names.

AN HON. MEMBER: How can they change it? (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has got the right to make changes even till the last minute.

AN HON. MEMBER: He should take your permission and change it.

SHRI P. C. SETHI: I am moving the motion standing in my name. With your permission I am adding two more names, namely, Shri Chintamani Panigrahi and Shri Yashwant Singh Kushwah.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Why?

SHRI P. C. SETHI: There is an Independent Group which was completely left out. So we have included one from the Opposition and one from the Congress.

I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Income-Tax Act, 1961, the Wealth-tax Act, 1957, the Gift-tax Act, 1958 and the Companies (Profits) Surtax Act, 1964, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of 28 members, namely:—

Shri Jahan Uddin Ahmed
Sardar Buta Singh
Shri N. C. Chatterji
Shri J. K. Choudhury
Shri S. R. Damani
Shri N. Dandeker
Shri Pattiam Gopalan
Shri Kanwar Lal Gupta
Shri B. N. Katham
Shri Yashwant Singh Kushwah
Shri V. Krishnamoorthi
Shri Brij Bhushan Lal
Shri P. Govinda Menon
Shri H. H. Raja Yeshwantrao M. Mukne
Shri Chintamani Panigrahi
Shri S. B. Patil
Shri Shiva Chandika Prasad
Shri R. Dasaratha Rama Reddy