श्रीमती तारकेश्वरी सिन्हा (बाढ़) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने शूर्पणखा तो अपने आप को बना लिया—वह रावण किस को बना रहे हैं ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : जो उन के नजदीक बैठा हो ।

17.57 hrs.

RAID ON ASTROLOGER'S HOUSE IN DELHI*

Mr. Speaker: The House will now take up the Half-an-hour Discussion. Before that the Minister wanted to make a statement.

श्री मधु लिमये (मुंगेर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय क्या बाद में यह बयान नहीं हो सकता है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : चूंकि हाफ़-एन आवर डिस्कशन इस बारे में होना है इसलिए बयान पहले होना चाहिए ।

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Communications (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, with regard to the subject matter of the half-an-hour discussion I had promised that Government will make some statement. In pursuance of that, with your permission, I am going to make that statement. The Home Minister has written to the Speaker and, earlier, to the Prime Minister, in connection with the subject matter of the half-an-hour discussion which we are taking up immediately. The Home Minister has categorically dealt with all the points raised in the various statements made by some hon. Members and has specifically stated that:

(i) He never interfered with the execution of the duties of the Enforcement Branch officers in the case against the firm of Shri Chamanlal.

(ii) There is no truth whatsoever in the specific allegation that he used his official position to have the case against Shri Chamanlál suppressed.

(iii) He never asked any favour to be shown to any one.

(iv) He never suggested to the Finance Minister that any concession should be given in any particular case or that full justice should not be meted out in any case coming up for his decision.

(v) He had nothing to do with the circumstances which led to the resignation of Shri T. T. Krishnamachari. The resignation of Shri T. T. Krishnamachari arose out of a memorandum submitted to the President by some Members of Parliament. He had no concern whatsoever with the memorandum nor is there any truth in the allegation that it was he who instigated persons affected by Shri T. T. Krishnamachari's financial measures to bring forward a memorandum against him.

That is all what I have to say.

Shri Sezhiyan (Perambalur): The Leader of the House has read a letter written by the Home Minister, Shri Nanda. Sir, I want it to be laid on the Table of the House.

18 hrs.

Mr. Speaker: All right.

श्री मधु लिमये : अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह चर्चा काफ़ी रहस्यमय बन गई है . . .

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैंने अर्ज करनी है कि इस वक्त आधा घंटा है इस समय मेरे

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*Half-An-Hour Discussion.

पास 16 नाम हैं जिनको एक-एक सवाल करने की इजाजत देनी है 16 में से अगर 6 गैरहाजिर हों तो 10 को जरूर इजाजत देनी होगी ।

श्री मधु लिमये : मैं सिर्फ 15 मिनट लूंगा ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप 15 मिनट लेंगे तो दूसरों को मौका नहीं मिल सकेगा ।

श्री मधु लिमये : मैं ज्यादा समय नहीं लूंगा आप को आश्वासन देता हूं ।

यह चर्चा बहुत रहस्यमय बन गई है लेकिन उसकी जिम्मेदारी मेरी नहीं है । जब 24 फरवरी को इस के सम्बन्ध में एक तारांकित प्रश्न आया था तो यहां पर वित्त मंत्री और राज्य वित्त मंत्री मौजूद थे वे सारी स्थिति को जानते थे और जब मैंने उसके बारे में उपप्रश्न पूछा उसी वक्त खड़े होकर सारी बातें वे साफ साफ रख देते तो सदन में हंगामा भी नहीं होता और आप को इस ज्योतिषी ने जिस स्थिति में डाला है जिसमें आपका कोई दोष नहीं है. वह स्थिति पैदा नहीं होती ।

लेकिन इस समय, अध्यक्ष महोदय, मुझे ऐसा लगता है कि यह सरकार और उसके मंत्री जो एक महान स्वतन्त्रता संग्राम के उत्तराधिकारी और वारिस हैं एक जमाने में निस्वार्थ बुद्धि से किसी आदर्श के पीछे पड़ कर काम करते थे लेकिन आज इस सरकार में और इसके मंत्रियों में कोई आदर्शवादिता नहीं है कोई दिशा नहीं है नीति नहीं है सिद्धान्त नहीं है । नतीजा यह हो गया है कि इनका मन और इसकी आत्मा इस वक्त खाली है । जब मन और आत्मा खाली रह जाती है तो यह स्वाभाविक है कि कोई न कोई चीज उसमें जरूर आयेगी । तो इस सरकार के और मंत्रियों के दिमागों पर इस वक्त ज्योतिषी लोग छा गये हैं ।

मुझे जारशाही का जमाना याद आता है । आखिर के दिनों में वहां भी एक ऐसी अवस्था पैदा हुई थी, एक विचित्र व्यक्ति सामने आया जिसका नाम है "रास्पुटीन" और उस का असर उस वक्त वहां के जार और जारीना पर बहुत ज्यादा था (व्यवधान) अगर आप लोग पढ़ा करेंगे तो आपको मालूम होगा रूसी इतिहास के बारे में ।

Shri Kapur Singh (Ludhiana): Sir, I want you to give your ruling on the point whether it is in order and whether it is in accordance with the Rules of Procedure to cast insinuations on an astrologer and compare his with Rasputin. The astrologer is not here to answer those charges. I think the rules require that he should not make insinuations of this type.

श्री मधु लिमये : मैंने कोई ऐसी बात नहीं कही है ।

एक माननीय सदस्य : जब हवेली राम सामने नहीं है, उसके वरखिलाफ़ नहीं कह सकते ।

श्री मधु लिमये : मैं तो रास्पुटीन के बारे में कह रहा हूं ।

श्री बाल्मीकि चौधरी (महुआ) : राष्ट्रपति यहां नहीं हैं ।

श्री मधु लिमये : देख लीजिये, अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं रास्पुटीन की चर्चा कर रहा हूं और कांग्रेस वाले राष्ट्रपति का नाम ले रहे हैं ।

एनसाइक्लोपीडिया ब्रिटेनिका की 18 वीं किताब में इसके बारे में लिखा है, मैं उसे पढ़ कर सुनाता हूं ।

"The mystic atmosphere which always prevailed at the Russian Court and the constant fear for the health of the Tsar created a favourable background for the appearance of such a man. The eventual improvement in the health of the grand Duke Alexis

[मधु लिमये]

procured for Rasputin a commanding influence over the Empire.... No important nomination was made without his approval and the most unexpected people rose to the highest offices as a result of his influence. Rasputin was too ignorant to have any opinion on political ques-questions: he was in most cases a mere instrument of the reactionaries."

तो अध्यक्ष महोदय, आपके सामने मैं इस तथ्य को रखना चाहता हूं कि मन्त्री और मन्त्रियों के ज्योतिषी—ये दुनिया में एक मजाक का विषय बन गये हैं । मैंने कई लेख इस सम्बन्ध में आपके सामने भेजे हैं । यह सब इस लिये होता है कि जब मन्त्रियों के सामने कोई बड़ा आदर्श नहीं रहता है और स्वार्थ की भट्टी जलने लगती है और आपस में झगड़ा भी इतना ज्यादा होता है एक दूसरे के खिलाफ़ कभी कभी पुलिस के द्वारा जांच भी करने लगते हैं, तो ऐसी हालत में, मेरा ख्याल है कि सरकार की जो नैतिकता है और देश की जो नैतिकता है वह एक दम खत्म हो जाती है ।

यह विषय जो हमारे सामने है, उसके बारे में तथ्य बिल्कुल साफ़ है । पहले तो कोशिश की गई सदन से इस बात को छिपाने की—कि ये जो ज्योतिषी महोदय हैं इनका धंधा वगैरा के साथ सम्बन्ध है या नहीं । इन्होंने आपको एक चिट्ठी लिखी है और उसमें कहा है कि मैं कोई बिजनेस नहीं करता, और न मेरे पुत्रों का किसी बिजनेस के साथ सम्बन्ध है । लेकिन बार बार प्रश्न किये जाने पर वित्त मन्त्री को यह स्वीका करना पड़ा कि न केवल हवेलीराम और उनके पुत्र बिजनेस में हैं, बल्कि इन के सम्बन्ध चमनलाल की फर्मों के साथ हैं और यह फर्म क्या है ? ईरान से हमारे जो दूत हैं, उन्होंने बारबार लिखा कि विदेशी मुद्रा की चोरी हो रही है, आप इनके लिये कुछ कीजिये । उसके बाद वित्त मन्त्रालय के एन्फोर्समेंट डाइरेक्टोरेट ने इनकी जांच की और जब जांच हुई तो इनके जो सम्बन्धित व्यक्ति हैं, उनके दफ्तर पर भी छापे मारे गये—जोशी ट्रेडर्स है, जो कि हवेली राम और उनके दो पुत्रों की फर्म है, उस पर भी छापा पड़ा ।

उस वक्त मुझे इत्तिला मिली कि एंफोर्समेंट डाइरेक्टोरेट के अधिकारियों के साथ इन लोगों ने बहुत उद्दण्ड व्यवहार किया और उन्होंने कहा कि गृह मन्त्री हमारे दोस्त हैं, वह इस वक्त बैंगलौर गये हैं, उनको वापस आने दीजिये, आपकी ठीक मरम्मत करेंगे । उसके बाद यह मामला चलता रहा और मुझे यह जानकारी मिली । अब मन्त्री महोदय कह रहे हैं—गृह मन्त्री जी यहां सदन में नहीं हैं, इस तथ्य के बारे में स्वयं गृह मन्त्री जी बयान देते तो ज्यादा अच्छा था—मुझे जो खबर मिली है, वह आपके सामने रखता हूं । मुझे यह खबर मिली कि चेयरमैन आफ़ बोर्ड आफ़ डाइरेक्ट टैक्सेज तथा रिजर्व बैंक के गवर्नर आदि अधिकारियों के जरिये यह कोशिश की गई कि चमनलाल के केस को दबा दिया जाय । कम से कम जो फाइनेन्स एक्ट है, उसकी धारा 68 के अन्दर, यानी अपनी खुशी से हम अपनी आमदनी का ऐलान कर सकते हैं—चमनलाल फर्म को उस धारा के अन्दर कुछ सहूलियत मिलनी चाहिये, वह दिला दी जाय, इस तरह की बात गृह मन्त्री और उनके जो उप गृह मन्त्री थे, उनकी मारफ़त की गई है, यह मुझे खबर मिली है ।

दूसरी बात मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूं यह जो ज्योतिषी महोदय हैं, इनका और नन्दा साहब का गहरा रिश्ता है, एल० एन० मिश्रा साहब का भी है. . .

एक माननीय सदस्य : आपका किससे है ?

श्री मधु लिमये : हमारे रिश्ते की बात मत करो । इस वक्त मन्त्रियों के रिश्ते

की बात चल रही है । मन्त्रियों की गाड़ियों में बैठ कर यह कई वक़ा शाम को मन्त्रियों के यहां जाते हैं और लम्बे वार्तालाप इनके होते हैं । शायद ज्योतिषी महोदय इनको बताते होंगे कि आपको प्रधान मन्त्री बनने का अच्छा अवसर है, आप बन सकते हैं । लेकिन एक चीज मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या यह बात सही है कि इन्कम टैक्स डिपार्टमेंट के एक अधिकारी ने इस बात की तलाशी की थी, जांच की थी कि हवेलीराम के नाम पर 10 लाख से अधिक रकम जमा है ? चूंकि मैं यह पूछ रहा हूं और वित्त मन्त्री जी यहां पर हैं, वे इसका खुलासा कर सकते हैं । अगर यह बात सही है और इस बात की जांच करने वाले अधिकारी की बदली की गई है, तो फिर सवाल आयेगा कि यह 10, 12, 15 जो रकम है, वह इन पंडित महोदय के यहां कहां से आई । कई किस्म की बातें सुनने में आती हैं । यह भी कहा जाता है कि लुफ्त हंसा का दफ्तर जिस इमारत में है वह बहुत सस्ते किराये में उनको मिली हुई है और जो असली किराया है वह डाईश मार्क में शायद वेस्ट जर्मनी में जमा हो रहा है । क्या ज्योतिषी महोदय का इसमें भी हाथ है ? क्या वित्त मन्त्रालय या जो दूसरे इनके विभाग हैं, उन्होंने इस बात की भी जांच की है ?

यह भी कहा जाता है कि बीजू पटनायक और बीरेन मित्र जी ने इन से सलाह मशविरा किया था । हो सकता है कि भविष्य के बारे में ज्योतिष के बारे में किया हो । लेकिन उन से भी उनको काफी पैसा मिला है ऐसा कहा जाता है । असली बात यह है कि अगर यह सही है कि उनके नाम से बैंक में या अन्य जगह पर बड़ी रकम मिली है तो इस बात की जरूर जांच की जानी चाहिये कि क्या यह महोदय टैक्स वगैरह देते थे और इनको यह पैसा कहां से मिला, इनके साथ किन किन लोगों के सम्बन्ध हैं ? इस तरह की जो बातें हैं इन सब की जांच होनी चाहिये ।

अन्त में मैं कहूंगा कि नन्दा साहब का इस में जो व्यवहार है उसकी वजह से उन्होंने इस बात को रहस्यमय बना दिया है । कोई बात जरूर ऐसी है जो वह छिपाना चाहते हैं । अधिकारी लोग भी सारे सत्य को बताने के लिए तैयार हो जायेंगे लेकिन, वे गृह मंत्री से डरते हैं । इसका कारण यह है कि उनके पास सेंट्रल ब्यूरो आफ इनवैस्टीगेशन है । मैं चाहता हूं कि गृह मंत्री नंदा साहब इस्तीफा दें और इस सब की न्यायिक जांच की जाए । इन अधिकारियों को बुलाया जाए और भूतपूर्व जो वित्त मंत्री हैं कृष्णमाचारी साहब उनको भी बुलाया जाए । सारी बातें सामने आयें । इन दो मंत्रियों के जो आपसी झगड़ हैं उसके बारे में तो मुझे कुछ नहीं कहना है क्योंकि कृष्णमाचारी साहब के खिलाफ जो आरोप थे उन में तथ्य था ऐसा मुझे लगा और इसीलिए मैंने उस स्मृतिपत्र पर हस्ताक्षर किये थे । लेकिन सदाचार के नाम पर और भ्रष्टाचार विरोधी अभियान के नाम पर नन्दा साहब जो काम कर रहे हैं उसके बारे में भी कुछ जांच जरूर होनी चाहिए । इसलिए मैं आपकी मार्फत मांग करता हूं कि वह इस्तीफा दें और जांच के लिए तैयार हो जायें ताकि हमारे देश में सदाचार का वातावरण कायम हो सके ।

Mr. Speaker: Shri Manoharan. Only a question is to be put.

Shri Manoharan (Madras South): Not a speech?

Mr. Speaker: No.

Shri Manoharan: All right, Sir. I will be satisfied with putting a question.

I must first say that I am thoroughly disappointed with the statement given by the Leader of the House. I request you that the letter written by Mr. Nanda should be circulated among the Members of Parliament.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Communications (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): I have no objection in placing the letters on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT--5876|66].

Shri Manoharan: I want to know whether a family *prohit* of Mr. Nanda, Mr. Haveli Ram Joshi who was deliberately cheated and misled this House, the sovereign Parliament, and you, Sir, the presiding deity and thereby the country at large through, with audacity, writing a letter to you which is wrapped up in nothing but falsehood and terminological inexactitude, who is worth about several lakhs which is unparallel in the history of prohits in India and who is still using his astrology as a camouflage, bringing pressures on Ministers, especially on Mr. Nanda in getting things done; (b) considering the fishy nature of this nasty episode . . .

Mr. Speaker: How many parts are there?

Shri Manoharan: Only (a), (b) and (c). That is all.

(b) Considering the fishy nature of this nasty episode which has its tentacles sprawled over many many Ministries, particularly Home, may I request you on the lines taken by Mr. Madhu Limaye to advise the Government asking Mr. Nanda to step down whose Ministry is a pivot on which the entire administration revolves . . .

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member should appreciate and realise . . .(*Interruption*).

Shri Manoharan: I am putting a question.

Mr. Speaker: If that question takes 15 minutes . . .

श्री मधु लिमये : हेम बरुग्रा साहब की शैली में इस वक्त ग्रर्ज कर रहे हैं, इसलिये इनको कर लेने दीजिये ।

Shri Manoharan: . . . and ordering for a fresh judicial inquiry which I am sure, if conducted, would reveal shocking mysteries to the nation; and (c) is it a fact whether the Alps restaurant situated in Janpath Road wherein an European Airlines (Lufthansa) occupying a portion on a disclosed rent of Rs. 500 only which when investigated by C.B.R. was found out to be that a balance of Rs. 5000 is being accumulated in every month in a foreign bank. The famous astrologer in question has brought pressure on the Government to hush up the whole affair in favour of the proprietor and to get a passport to him despite the objection raised by the C.B.R.

Mr. Speaker: If I allow every Member to take as much time for a question, then all the time will be spent on questions.

श्रीमती रामदुलारी सिन्हा (पटना): मधु लिमये साहब ने ग्राज ग्रौर इसके पहले भी इस सदन में जो ब्यान दिया है उससे ऐसा लगता है कि सरकारी कार्य कलाप पर उनकी पूरी पहुंच है । सरकार ग्रौर विरोधी सदस्य श्री मधु लिमये साहब के बीच में यह कौन सा ग्रादान प्रदान चल रहा है ? मैं जानना चाहती हूं कि क्या सरकार की तरफ से इस तरह की बात उठाई जा रही है ?

श्री द्वा० ना० तिवारी (गोपालगंज) : पंद्रह मिनट तक मैंने लिमये साहब का भाषण सुना । उस में नन्दा जी का क्या पाट है उनका क्या कसूर है यह समझ में नहीं ग्राया ।

ग्रध्यक्ष महोदय : ग्राप सवाल क्या करना चाहते हैं ?

श्री द्वा० ना० तिवारी : प्रिलिमिनरी रिमार्क्स तो पहले हमें भी कर लेने दीजिये ।

ग्रध्यक्ष महोदय : जवाब तो मिनिस्टर साहब को देना है । इस वास्ते ग्राप मिनिस्टर साहब से सवाल करें ।

श्री द्वा० ना० तिवारी : इस पन्द्रह मिनट के समय में क्या चार्ज नन्दा जी पर आया ? ज्योतिषी या उसके लड़के कोई भी डेवल हो सकता है। लेकिन नन्दा जी ने क्या पार्ट प्ले किया है ? उनका क्या कसूर है सिवाय इसके कि सदाचार मूवमेंट उन्होंने चलाई है और घूसखोरी बन्द करने की कोशिश की है ? इससे हो सकता है कि कुछ लोगों को जलन हो और वह उनका फेस टार करना चाहते हों। शायद उनको इसी में मजा आता है। एक मर्तबा उन्होंने कृष्णमाचारी साहब के खिलाफ मेमोरेंडम दिया था और अब कृष्णमाचारी साहब उनके लिए अच्छे हो गए हैं.......

श्री मधु लिमये : यह मेरी बात को तोड़ मरोड़ कर रख रहे हैं। उनके प्रश्न का मैं जबाब देता हूं। मैं चाहता हूं कि कृष्णमाचारी साहब की भी जांच हो और नन्दा साहब की भी हो।

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Mr. K. N. Tiwary.

Only the Member who is called will speak and nobody else.

Shri K. N. Tiwary (Bagoha): In the speech that Mr. Madhu Limaye made the other day and also in the reply that was given by Shri Bhagat, it was said that the premises of Joshi traders were raided. May I know whether, in the course of the raid, any incriminating material was found with the Joshi traders?

Shri Sheo Narain (Bansi): May I know whether it is a fact that the astrologer in question has written to Government that Joshi traders have no business relations with Mr. Chaman Lal and also that they have been doing no business with the Government or even any private industry?

श्री प्र० ना० विद्यालंकार (होशियारपुर): मधु लिमये साहब ने नैतिकता का सवाल उठाया है। क्या यह नैतिकता के नाम से दुनिया भर के निराधार आरोपों को ला कर यहां इस हाउस के जरिये उनको पब्लिसिटी दे कर अनैतिकता का परिचय नहीं दे रहे हैं ?

श्री चन्द्रमणिलाल चौधरी : जितने चार्जिज आए मैं समझता हूं कि सरकार को कमजोर करने के लिए आये हैं। नन्दा जी ने जो काम किया है उससे सभी वाकिफ हैं।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप सवाल क्या करना चाहते हैं ?

श्री चन्द्रमणिलाल चौधरी : नंदा जी ने मुल्क से भ्रष्टाचार और बेईमानी को खत्म करने की कोशिश की है जूआखोरी को खत्म करने की कोशिश की है झूठी बातों का दमन किया है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप जो सवाल करना चाहते हैं करें।

श्री चन्द्रमणिलाल चौधरी : इन बातों से इनके दिलों में काफी तकलीफ है। तकलीफ इसलिए है कि मजदूरों से ये चन्दा लेते हैं और उनको उभाड़ते हैं।

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I will pass on to the next. He has not listened to me; it will not go on record.

श्री चन्द्रमणिलाल चौधरी : * * *

Shri Kapur Singh: Having no desire to probe into the doings of an Indian Rasputian hobnobbing with our Czar, the Minister of Home Affairs, I merely want to know whether Government are aware that the raid on the business premises of Shri Chaman Lal and the astrologer's house was made after the business premises of Shri Ram Nath Goenka had been raided by the CBI and that Shri Ram Nath Goenka is an intimate friend of the previous Finance Minister of India, while Shri Chaman Lal is a business rival of Messrs. Amin

*Not recorded.

[Shri **Kapur** Singh]

Chand Pearey Lal and Messrs. V. D. Swamy & Co. who are also intimate friends of the ex-Finance Minister of India, as is apparent from the allotment of very large sums of foreign exchange, admitted in the other House, as having been sanctioned to Messrs. Amin Chand Pearey Lal, despite the fact that many cases of foreign exchange violations are pending against them.

If this is so, do Government see any connection of a retaliatory nature behind the previous action taken by the Ministry of Home Affairs against Shri Ram Nath Goenka and the subsequent raid made on the astrologer's house by the Enforcement officials of the Finance Ministry?

श्री यशपाल सिंह (कैराना) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं सब से बड़ा पाप समझता हूं किसी को खुश करने के लिये कुछ कहना या किसी के डर से कुछ कहना । मैं जो कुछ कहूंगा वह वही कहूंगा जो मेरी आत्मा कहती है ।

हमारे भाई मधु लिमये साहब हर एक धार्मिक चीज से नफरत करते हैं । उन्होंने इसी हाउस में प्रस्ताव रखा कि चोटी और जनेऊ का सफाया किया जाये, नमाज और रोजे का सफाया किया जाये, दाढ़ी का सफाया किया जाये, केश और कड़े का सेफाया किया जाये । इस तरह का जो प्रस्ताव उन्होंने रखा था उस पर यहां बहस भी हुई है । उन को हर एक धार्मिक चीज से नफरत है । हवेली राम चूंकि ज्योतिष के पंडित हैं, हवेली राम चूंकि भारतीय संस्कृति के निचोड़ हैं इस लिये वह नफरत करते हैं हवेली राम से और नन्दा साहब से इसलिये कि वह चाहते हैं कि भ्रष्टाचार न हो, धार्मिक राज्य हो । इन दो बातों के सिवा मुझे कुछ पता नहीं लगा कि इस स्टेटमेंट में क्या बात है । मैं स्पीकर साहब से प्रार्थना करता हूं कि अगर यह बात सही है तो इस पर कम से कम आठ घंटे की बहस होनी चाहिये ।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय (देवास) : मैं भी एक सवाल करना चाहता हूं ।

Mr. Speaker: There are no other signatories. Now, the hon. Minister.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): I had also sent in my name.

Mr. Speaker: When?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: The slip has already been sent to you.

Mr. Speaker: At this moment I might not allow. I think only Shri Indrajit Gupta wanted to put a question.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: My name is also there.

Mr. Speaker: All right. Let him put his question.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad (Bhagalpur): I would also like to put one question.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, I shall allow him also.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I have already written to you.

श्री शिव नारायण : आज आप यह एक प्रिसिडेंट कायम कर रहे हैं, अध्यक्ष महोदय ।

श्री स० मो० बनर्जी । माननीय सदस्यों को बतला दिया जाये । उन को मुगालता हो रहा है ।

Mr. Speaker: I have already got this notice from Shri S. M. Banerjee and Shri Indrajit Gupta.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I have already sent in the slip giving my division number, namely 462, and also my affiliation namely 'Independent'.

Mr. Speaker: He might put his question now.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: My question is this. Before the Finance Minister replies to the various charges levelled against the astrologer....

Mr. Speaker: There is one thing that I would like to mention. If there is no time left for the reply, I would have to ask the hon. Minister only to put the reply on the Table of the House. That is what the rule provides. If hon. Members take away the whole time on questions only, I shall only ask the hon. Minister to lay his reply on the Table of the House.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I want to say only one sentence. Before the Finance Minister replies to the various charges levelled against Shri Haveli Ram, the Jyotishi, I want to know whether he has not shown his hand to him; if he has shown his hand, let him not reply; let the other Minister reply.

Mr. Speaker: Now, the hon. Minister.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : मेरा बहुत छोटा सा सवाल है।

Mr. Speaker: No, I am not allowing the hon. Member.

The Minister of Finance (Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri): The questions, as I have understood them, shorn of the preliminary remarks and so on, are directed more against Shri Haveli Ram than against the Minister. Charges have been made, and it has been suggested that I should advise him to resign and so on. Those are not the questions before us now. I think that it will be undignified for the Ministry and particularly for the gentleman referred to, if I were to plead his cause here because already a statement has been made that he had nothing whatsoever to do with this matter. In consequence, I think that it will not be proper for me to go over the same ground again.

If this House is interested in a very short history as to what has happened, I can tell this House that in July, 1965, there was some information from our Ambassador in Iran saying that there were certain cargoes of pepper and spices which were meant for Afghanistan but which were being diverted into Iran and thereby foreign exchange was being lost.

An hon. Member: Jute also.

Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri: No names had ben mentioned by him as to who these parties were. But from information received, it was gathered that the origin of this was somewhere in the west coast—it might be Cochin or Bombay. But pursuant to that there were several raids made, including that of the premises of Chaman Lal Bros. and their associates—there are three or four firms.

As a result, so far as Cochin and Bombay were concerned, nothing very much was found in the shape either of money or of documents. Then a further raid was made here in Delhi, not exactly in connection with this, in pursuance of some further information which was received, and some documents were found. The informant also gave the name of one Kewal Joshi, who was employed by these people, and therefore there might be some documents in his possession. As a result of that, a search was made in some premises in Darya Ganj away from the premises of Chaman Lal, where there were certain telephone numbers in the names of three persons, all three Joshis. One of the names was H. L. Joshi, and it is presumed that that may have been Haveliram Joshi—it is only a presumption; the full name is not there.

When the examination was made in these premises, nothing was found, but on receipt of follow-up information, what was found was this, that Chaman Lal Bros.—on the information disclosed—had actually transacted business in two commodities. One was zeri which had been exported to Hongkong and the other pepper which had been sent to Afghanistan or Iran.

[Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri]

The *modus operandi*, it is suspected—the investigations are still going on—was that the zeri had been over-valued and in respect of that certain export concessions had been received from Government, because at that time Government was giving certain concessions when zeri was exported. The benefit which was received was alleged to have been received by Chaman Lal—the benefit of the export licences on the value of the zeri. Naturally, when the zeri was over-valued, this money had to come back. Actually, the sale that had been made abroad was at a lower price. In order to countervail that, there was despatch of pepper. There was under-valuation and a certain amount of money was countervailed or obtained by that means so that the zeri business might be balanced.

As a result, what was found was this that about Rs. 75 lakhs worth of foreign exchange was there in respect of which there had been bills of exchange drawn through banks here, negotiated through banks there. But the money had not actually come back to this country.

At that juncture, the Reserve Bank wanted to get hold of this money. An application was made to the Reserve Bank by Chaman Lal suggesting that this money should come back in two instalments of Rs. 40 lakhs and Rs. 35 lakhs. This matter was referred to the Enforcement Department to find out whether this could be done without in any way affecting the inquiry. The Enforcement Department said it could be done and the inquiry would still go on. The Reserve Bank felt that immediately at least Rs. 40 lakhs in foreign exchange should be brought back pending inquiry by the Enforcement Department, otherwise there might be delay in getting the money back because the inquiry is in this country, not in those countries. These Rs. 40 lakhs have been got back. But Rs. 35 lakhs have not come back yet. But I wish to make it clear that the Enforcement Branch is still going on with the investigation, it has not given it up, it is making inquiries and taking steps as actively as it possibly can, to try to find out whether Chanman Lal could be visited with a penalty, how many other people are involved and what are the means which can be taken for the purpose of getting this. That is one side of the story.

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया (फर्रुखाबाद): लुफ्तान्जा ।

Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri: The other side of the story is this, that there was found by investigation that it was likely that Rs. 1.5 crores had evaded income-tax in the case of Chaman Lal.

While this investigation was going on. Chaman Lal put forward, as he was entitled to—this was in January, 1966—a voluntary disclosure, which he could do under the Act until March, 1966. That was not accepted because Chaman Lal stated that there should be certain concessions given to him which the Act could not possibly give. The result is, there also, the income-tax authorities are going on against him, and there is no concession shown to him.

As far as my personal enquiries establish, Mr. Haveli Ram may have been or was—I do not say may have been—was the personal astrologer and prohit of the Home Minister, but there had not been any pressure put. I can only speak from documents because I cannot possibly say what happened at the time of my predecessor.

श्री मधु लिमये : उस वक्त आप वित्त मंत्री नहीं थे न ? अध्यक्ष महोदय उस वक्त यह वित्त मंत्री नहीं थे ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : इस वास्ते जवाब भी न दें ? (व्यवधान) ।

Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri: As I said, I have got no authority over my predecessor, I cannot summon him, call him, nor am I in the position of a judge who has got to judge between two persons. My position is to make an investigaton as best as I can. I have done it by calling my officers and looking into every document myself to satisfy myself whether there is any noting by anybody suggesting that there had been any interference by the Home Ministry or the Finance Ministry, and I make bold to say, I am very proud and happy to say, that there is absolutely no trace of that. Beyond that I cannot say if anything happened between two persons which I do not know, I cannot answer that. That is, so far as Haveli Ram and the Home Minister are concerned.

The next question that comes is: has Haveli Ram got tax-evaded money to the tune of Rs. 10 lakhs? I will be very happy if Mr. Limaye can tell us where we can get that, lay our hands on. We have not been able to do so far. As you know and as the hon. House knows, we in the Direct Taxation Department and in the department of investigation are looking for information which will enable us to find this matter, and if Mr. Limaye has got this, under secrecy if he passes that information, we shall certainly look into it, there is no question about that. We have not got that information.

An hon. Member: He will get his share.

श्री मधु लिमये : अध्यक्ष महोदय यह क्या लोग बोल रहे थे ?

Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri: Regarding this allegation that there has been some arrangement with the owner of a building and Lufthansa, whereby Rs. 5,000, as the amount is mentioned, is deposited month after month in a German Bank in the name of Haveli Ram, this is the first time I hear of it. I do not know anything about it. Nor is there any information with the Government as to that. Again, if there can be any reliable *prima facie* information, I shall be most grateful to any one who knows about it, so that we can investigate that matter and find out if the money is there.

As I said, I am here to explain Government's conduct and the conduct of one of our respected colleagues. I am not here to explain Haveli Ram, I am not here why he has done it or not done it. All I am interested in saying is that no protection has been given to Haveli Ram so far as I know, no protection will be given to him. If this information is given to me, Haveli Ram, however, eminent he may be as an astrologer or purohit, if he has done anything causing loss to this country, deprived this country of any money which is justly due to it, law's rigours will be applied to him as against any person however low or however high he may be. I am not forgetting the oath that I took that the investigation will be without fear or favour, without affection, but without ill-will also.

That is all the statement I can make, I cannot say anything more on this.

18.35 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, March 25, 1966/Chaitra 4, 1888 (Saka).