

(d) the steps taken to check havalas operations in foreign exchange remittance schemes and the number of cases involving law violation detected so far by the Enforcement Directorate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (d). The Remittances of Foreign Exchange (Immunities) Scheme 1991 was introduced to tide over the current difficulties relating to the balance of payments problems and to augment inflow of foreign exchange. The Scheme is open for a limited period of time. According to this Scheme no inquiry or investigation can be commenced under any law against the person who is in receipt of the remittances in foreign exchange in accordance with the provisions of the Scheme. The response to the Scheme is generally encouraging. However, the detailed information about collections under the Scheme is being obtained and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Measures to Check Badla Financing and Options Trading in Stock Exchanges

290. SHRI SANT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the twin banes of the stock exchange system, badla financing with its doctored regime of interest rates and options trading, have defied solution;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to countenance this situation and check the thriving illegal business of badla financing and options trading?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c). The Ministry of

Finance had commissioned in February, 1991 an Expert Study on trading in shares in Stock Exchanges by the Society for Capital Market Research & Development New Delhi. The terms of reference of the study covered, inter-alia, examination of the trading system prevalent in the Indian stock exchanges with special reference to Stock Exchanges at Bombay, Calcutta, New Delhi and Ahmedabad and the working of the "Badla System" in shares. The Report of the Expert Study has been recently received. The recommendations contained in the Report are being examined.

Options in securities are illegal as per Section 20 of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956.

Amendment of MRTP Act

291. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to bring forward legislation to amend the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 to give effect to new industrial policy announced on July 24, 1991;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also propose to bring activities of chit funds and real estate business within the purview of the amending legislation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) & (b). Yes, Sir. The President has promulgated the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices

(Amendment) Ordinance, 1991 on 27th September, 1991 removing pre-entry restrictions of seeking prior approval of the Government for establishment of new undertakings, expansion of capacity, amalgamation, merger, take-over and appointment of directors as also registration of undertakings. It is proposed to replace this Ordinance with an Act of Parliament. A Bill is proposed to be introduced in the current session of Parliament to replace the Ordinance.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. As per Ordinance, the scope of the definition of 'service' has been enlarged by including chit fund and real estate. An Explanation has also been added that any dealings in real estate shall be deemed to be included in 'service'.

News-Item captioned 'Soft Drink Firm Charged with Unfair Means'

292. SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to news-item captioned "Soft drink firm charged with unfair means" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 5 November, 1991; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Director General Investigation and Registration has filed an application before the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission u/s 10 (a) (iii) of the MRTP Act against M/S. Pepsi Foods Pvt. Ltd. Chandigarh for their launching a scheme

under the caption "Lehar 7 up Cool Cool offer" requiring the participants to collect six crown caps of the soft drinks of the respondent and to also pay a sum of Rs.25 to get a tee-shirt or to collect three crown caps of the soft drink of the respondent and also to pay Rs.5/- to get a Fido Dido Band. The advertisement of the scheme appeared in several leading National and State News Papers including Indian Express of New Delhi addition date 26.9.91. The MRTP Commission directed issuance of a notice of enquiry against the Company as in the opinion of the Commission, the scheme attracts the Section 2 (0) of the MRTP Act.

2. Another applications has been filed by the DGI & R before the Commission u/s 12A against the Company for grant of temporary injunction restraining the respondent from continuing with the scheme till the conclusion of the enquiry. The Commission after considering the application on 14th November, 1991 has passed an interim injunction restraining the respondent from "extending the scheme as disclosed in the aforesaid advertisement or re-starting the same till further order."

Trade and Economic Pact between India and China

293. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to sign a long term trade and economic pact with China; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). A Trade Agreement between India and China was signed in August 1984 which is still in force. Under this Agreement, Trade Protocols have been