

Loans to Farmers Against Mortgage of
Gold

5899. DR. K.V.R. CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be please to state:

(a) whether the loans are not advanced to farmers by the scheduled banks for agricultural purposes against the mortgage of gold;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) In terms of instructions issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) the commercial banks as well as Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) accept gold ornaments and jewellery as security for granting agricultural loan, so long as the quantum of loan is assessed with reference to the crop grown or investment proposed and the repaying capacity likely to be generated and not with reference to the value of gold ornaments pledged.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Setting up of National Port Authority

5900. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a National Port Authority as an apex body for Port trusts which are proposed to be converted into companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof and advantage envisaged over the existing set up; and

(c) by what time such companies and

authority are expected to be operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). A proposal to convert Port trusts into corporate form of management such as companies of Corporations under the overall supervision of the Government is under consideration. It is envisaged that such a set up will give commercial orientation and also more autonomy to the major ports.

(c) As no final view has been taken no time limit can be set.

Foreign Exchange Earnings by EOUs
and FTZ units

5901. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the net gain in foreign exchange earnings in the case of Export Oriented Units and Free Trade Zone units and those using the advance licencing/value added route;

(b) whether there is a difference in the import content of EOUs, FTZ units or advance licensing units and those exporting under the REP system; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) The import content of the products exported by export Oriented Units, FTZ units or units operating under the Advance licensing and Replenishment Scheme may happen to be the same in some cases, but importability of the inputs may differ. Proper comparison cannot be made between the units operating in the DTA vis-a-vis 100% export Oriented & FTZ units because they operate under entirely different conditions. 100% EOUs and units