

(b) if so, the total amount target to be mobilised and the names of the Undertakings whose issues were decided to be floated;

(c) whether the Government achieved its targeted capital investment;

(d) if not, the factual position in this regard; and

(e) the procedure adopted by the Government to float these issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DR. C. SILVERA) : (a) Government do not float public issue of PSU shares.

(b) to (e). Do not arise in view of above.

[English]

Pilferage of Defence Item

3603. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 400 kg. nickle has been stolen with the connivance of the officers from the Ordnance Factory, Muradnagar U.P. in the month of August-September, 1995;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been ordered into it and if so, the findings thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government to revamp the security system of the factory and penalty imposed on guilty persons for the theft cases;

(d) whether the honest security staff of the factory are being harassed by the management; and

(e) if not, the details of reward given to such security staff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES) (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI) : (a) to (c). A statement is attached.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise, as in this case there might also have been lapses on the part of the security staff. Efforts are being made to pinpoint the responsibility.

STATEMENT

(a) to (c). On 1 September 1995, store keeper incharge of the non-ferrous godown of Ordnance Factory, Muradnagar reported that about 400 kgs of nickel appeared to have been stolen through the roof of the godown as one asbestos sheet of the roof was found slightly shifted. A board of inquiry was ordered by the General Manager which reported that there was a total shortage of about 438 kgs of nickel from the drums kept in the godown. Circumstantial evidence revealed that pilferage could not have taken place through the roof, as contended by the store keeper. The shortage appeared to have occurred over a period of time. Three

persons directly associated with the storage and handling of nickel were placed under suspension with effect from 4 October 1995 and major penalty proceedings initiated against them. A report has been lodged with the police. Possible lapse on the part of the security staff are being looked into. The security in the factory has been further tightened.

[Translation]

Slums in Metropolitan Cities

3604. SHRI JANARDAN MISRA :

SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

SHRI BRISHIN PATEL :

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of mushrooming of slums in metropolitan cities;

(b) whether the Government have conducted any survey about its main reasons;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to find out a permanent solution to the slum problem; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA) : (a) to (c). Slum development being a State subject, the Central Government has not undertaken any specific comprehensive survey of slums in the country as a whole. It is estimated, however, that compared to an identified slum population of 27.92 million in 1981, the slum population in 1991 was 46.621 million, indicating an increase of about 67 percent.

(d) and (e). The problem of slum dwellers has been engaging the attention of the Government since the Second Five Year Plan. The Government has taken various steps both preventive and curative to control spreading of slums. Under preventive steps, the scheme of Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT) was launched during Sixth Five Year Plan and extended to 7th and 8th Five Year Plan with the aim to mitigate to certain extent the problem of migration to large cities, by making increased investment on the provision of infrastructural and other essential facilities in small and medium towns. Under curative steps, the following schemes are in operation to provide basic facilities in existing slum areas.

(i) Thr Scheme of environmental Improvement of Urban Slums (EIUS) is in operation since 1972 in all urban areas including metropolitan areas. Presently, the scheme is under State sector and envisages to provide minimum basic amenities/facilities like water