

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (c) No formal funding offer has so far been received from the U.S. for India's telecommunication expansion plan.

Nationalisation of sick Jute Mills in West Bengal

571. DR. SUDHIR ROY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether jute mills in West Bengal are growing sick day by day;

(b) whether Union Government are contemplating any measures to nationalise the sick jute mills;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) Incidence of sickness in many of the jute mills in West Bengal is mainly attributable to the disparity between rising cost of production and un-remunerative sale realisation on account of sluggish demand for jute products. This has affected their financial viability.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Nationalisation is not considered to be an appropriate solution to deal with the problems faced by the jute industry. On the other hand steps have to be taken to modernise the jute industry to increase productivity and competitiveness of its products. With this objective in view Government have set up a Jute Modernisation Fund of Rs. 150 crores besides a Special Development Fund of Rs. 100 crores for rehabilitation, re-opening and restructuring of jute industry.

Complaints Regarding Unbated Smuggling Activities at Ports

572. SHRI BHARAT KUMAR DEDRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :—

(a) whether Government have received complaints that smugglers and anti-social elements are fearlessly loading the contraband items from vessels into trucks in port areas despite the presence of Coast guard Customs and police authorities ; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) Reports received by Government and seizures made indicate that the entire coastline of our country, including port areas, continue to be vulnerable to smuggling activities. However, the preventive and intelligence machinery of the Customs department remain vigilant to check smuggling activities through coastal areas, including ports.

The anti-smuggling drive in general has also been intensified throughout the country with particular emphasis in the highly vulnerable areas of our sea-coasts as is evident from the figures of seizures made from the West and East Coast regions furnished below :

Year	(Rs. in crores)	
	West Coast seizures	East Coast seizures
1984	60	21
1985	109	39
*1986	86	31

(Upto September)

*figures are provisional.

Appropriate anti-smuggling measures in this regard are also taken in close co-ordination with the concerned Central and State Government authorities.

Drug Trafficking

573. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :