

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The discussions with regard to the Annual Plan proposals for 1988-89 in respect of Central Ministries/Departments have been recently initiated in the Planning Commission. The Ministries/Departments are expected to take adequate measures to curtail the dependence of Public Sector Undertakings non-Plan budgetary support on the basis of guidelines for Annual Plan 1988-89.

Measures for control/reduction of non-Plan expenditure are high-lighted in the Seventh Plan Document (Sixth Chapter).

In the context of the present drought situation Government have decided on a number of measures towards economy in expenditure. These include curbs on expenditure on travel, furnishings, fairs, exhibitions, seminars, publications, fuel, etc.

[Translation]

**Gang of Smugglers Operating on Indo-Pak Border**

1133. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a notorious foreign smuggler gang is active on Indo-Pak border and some smugglers of that gang have been arrested and gold has also been seized from them ;

(b) if so, the action being taken by the Government against these smugglers ; and

(c) if no action is being taken, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI) : (a) and (b) Reports received by the Government indicate that some notorious gangs of smugglers are operating in the Indo-Pak border region. The Preventive and Intelligence machinery of the

Customs Department deployed in the region, however, remain vigilant to thwart their attempts at smuggling in the region. During the first 9 months of 1987, contraband gold worth Rs. 1.58 crores was seized and 171 persons were arrested in connection with smuggling activities in the Indo-Pak border region. Stringent action is taken departmentally as well as through prosecutions in a Court of Law against those involved in smuggling activities. Apart from confiscation of contraband goods, including gold, and imposition of penalties, detention under COFEPOSA Act is also resorted in suitable cases.

(c) Does not arise.

(Figures are provisional)

[English]

**Bank Robbery at Connaught Place, New Delhi**

1134. SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any arrest has been made in connection with the bank robbery in Connaught Place Branch, New Delhi of the State Bank of Mysore in the month of May, 1986; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) The Delhi Police have intimated that 2 persons have been arrested in this case. The Delhi Police have further reported that a sum of Rs. 89,000/-, 250 grams of melted gold, 2 gold bangles with one gold chain and house-hold goods worth Rs. 15,000/- have also been recovered.

**Integrated Export Promotion Programme**

1135. SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the export potential of India's food based commodities has not been fully exploited ;

(b) whether Government purpose to formulate an integrated export promotion programme for these commodities along with the marine products as there is a great demand of Indian processed foods in the International market; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this direction ?

**THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) :** (a) Export of agricultural commodities from India has been showing steady growth in recent years. Exports of agricultural items, however, are dependent upon domestic production and availability, indigenous productivity and price competitiveness. Exports of agro-based items are primarily in bulk form. Exports of processed and value added agricultural items though increasing in recent years suffer on account of price competitiveness and poor quality vis-a-vis the requirements in the international market. Measures are being taken by the various Commodity Boards and Export Promotion Councils concerned with agro-based commodities and products to increase exports of these items.

(b) and (c) The agro-based export sector consists of a large number of commodities each having separate and specific problems. There is, therefore, no move to formulate an integrated export promotion programme for all agricultural items. Export promotion programmes are undertaken by the concerned Commodity Boards and Export Promotion Councils for the agricultural items within their purview.

The Agricultural and Processed Food Export Development Authority (APEDA) has been recently set up to specifically address itself to increasing exports of value added processed food items. The Spices Board similarly is undertaking a scheme for promotion of spices in WANA region, export develop.

#### Taxes on Essential Drugs

1136. **SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the incidence of taxes on essential drugs has been reduced ;

(b) if so, the losses likely to be incurred by the Government on this revenue loss is likely to be met ;

(c) whether reducing of taxes on essential drugs have reduced the price of the vital drugs ; and

(d) if so, to what extent the cost has been reducing ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI) :** (a) There has been no reduction of customs or excise duties on essential drugs since the Budget of 1987. Under Part A of Notification 208-Cus dated 22-9-82 specified life-saving drugs are exempt from duty. Under Part C of the same notification any other life saving drug is also exempted provided it is so certified by the Directorate General of Health Services. Additions have been made in Part A from time to time but these are not fresh concessions as earlier these would have been covered under Part C of the Notification.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

#### Widening up of Business by M/s. Scindia Steam Navigation Company

1137. **DR. V. VENKATESH :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have permitted M/s. Scindia Steam Navigation Company to wind up business ;

(b) whether the shipping company has notified to sell its seventeen ships by public auction ;

(c) whether remaining five ships with the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India and Shipping Credit Investment Company of India Limited (as mortgaged) are also being sold ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?