

budget speech on 1st June, 1998 only mentioned the Government's decision to draw up a scheme for issuance of a Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) Card to person of Indian Origin living abroad and having foreign passports. The PIO card, which would be extended to persons of Indian Origin, settled in countries to be specified by the government, would provide some special economic, educational, financial, cultural and other benefits. The details of the scheme are being worked out.

Fake Currency

5946. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the persons circulating fake currency are also involved in arms smuggling;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the extent to which the fake currency affected the economy of the country?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) No such instance has come to notice.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) According to available information, the value of the fake currency detected by the Reserve Bank of India and seized by the Police during the years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 was Rs. 15.00 lakhs approximately. This is believed to be only a fraction of the value of total currency notes in circulation. However, the value of fake currency notes actually in circulation cannot be precisely ascertained.

[Translation]

Sugar Mills in Uttar Pradesh

5947. SHRI INDRAJEET MISHRA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the share of Union Government, State Government and other financial institutions in Khalilabad sugar mill of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the outstanding amount to be paid to the sugar cane growers;

(c) whether the salary and other arrears have not been paid to the employees of the said mill;

(d) if so, the time by which it has not been paid and the reasons therefor;

(e) whether regular payment has never been made to the retired and the existing employees;

(f) whether the Government are aware that mill owners have issued notice for closing the mill; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) to (g) The information is being collected.

[English]

Naphtha based Power Project

5948. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are able to meet the entire requirement of the Naphtha for the power Stations in Rajasthan and other States;

(b) if not, whether there is any proposal to allow the import of Naphtha for power projects and to provide relief in custom duties on imported Naphtha; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Under the Liquid Fuel Policy for power plants, the Government have allocated naphtha and F.O./LSHS for power generation within 12,000 MW of power generation capacity based liquid fuels including naphtha to the States including Rajasthan. Allocation of liquid fuels for power plants are made on the basis of the recommendations of the Ministry of Power within the capacity allocated to the particular State.

(b) and (c) Naphtha imports for power generation by Independent Power Producers (IPPs) who have been given allocation by Government, are allowed against actual user licence. At present, the custom duty on naphtha imports is 'nil'.

NHRC's Recommendations on U.N. Convention

5949. SHRI VIJAY SINGH SOY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission has wrongly recommended to accede to the 1984 U.N. convention against torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman and degrading;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and