

times suffer pre-berthing detention even though priority is accorded to them as the demand for fertilizers is seasonal. Recently, vessels carrying DAP and MOP suffered pre-berthing detention at JNPT, Vishakapatnam and Kandla.

(c) and (d) Most of the problems are operational in nature. Ports have taken steps to upgrade facilities for faster discharge and evacuation of cargo. Government has taken a policy decision to permit the captive users to set up their own facilities at the major ports on nomination basis.

Security in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

2522. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH :

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are the most insecure frontiers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) The Andaman and Nicobar Groups of Islands are very strategically located, as, among others, Major Sea Lanes of Communication pass through their vicinity. An Action plan has been prepared after a strategic analysis of the threat perceptions in the region to safeguard the Islands. Coast Guard developments plans also envisage enhancement of force level and infrastructure and procurement of hard-ware and equipment. The Navy and Coast Guard carry out regular surveillance and petrol.

[Translation]

NAFED

2523. PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'NAFED' purchases levied food items in the States and 50 per cent of the amount is borne by the States concerned;

(b) whether loss in such a deal is borne by Centre and State Governments respectively;

(c) whether NAFED does not purchase levied food items in the event of showing result indecline in stock of foodgrains of that State;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to make amendments in this policy; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SING YADAV) : (a) and (b) The NAFED has informed that it is not purchasing levied food items in the States.

(c) to (e) At present there is no proposal to make any amendments in this policy.

[English]

Lifting of Ban from Book

2524. SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV :

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to lift the ban on Salman Rushdie's book 'The Satanic Verses';

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the policy of the Government in regard to imposition and relaxation/withdrawal of such bans against writers?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Government's decisions on imposition of ban is taken on the objective assessment of books in question.

Purlia Arms Drop Case

2525. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Kingdom had prior knowledge of Purlia arms drop;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI) : (a) The Government is aware of the revelations made by Mr. Peter Bleasby an accused in the Purlia Arms Drop Case, in this regard.

(b) and (c) The matter is subjudice.

Raids on Reliance Industries

2526. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL :

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN :

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI has conducted raids at the residences and offices of Reliance Industries Ltd. in Mumbai and Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the details of secret documents found during the raids;

(c) whether the Executives of Reliance have been found involved with the underworld; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) The CBI has conducted raids at the residences and office premises of officials/executives/associates of the Reliance Group of Industries in Mumbai and Delhi recently. Photocopies of two classified documents were recovered during these raids. One of these documents relates to a proposal for long-term gas supply contract while the other document relates to Insat-2C and 2D.

(c) and (d) The investigation of the cases indicates that the Group President, Reliance Industries Ltd., based at Delhi, had links with Romesh Sharma who was recently arrested by the Delhi Police. The cases are still under investigation.

Pipeline From Mangalore to Bangalore

2527. SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited has prepared a plan to lay a pipe line from Mangalore to Bangalore for transportation of petroleum products from Mangalore refinery;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the estimated cost of the project;

(c) whether the required land for the pipeline project has been acquired;

(d) if so, whether there is a general objection by the affected land owners in the matter of compensation;

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to resolve the matter; and

(f) the time by which the project is targeted to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The project involves laying of 364 kms. cross pipeline for transport of petroleum products from Mangalore to Bangalore with tap off point at Hassan, at an estimated cost of Rs. 707 crores.

(c) to (f) The rights for laying the pipeline are being acquired under the Petroleum & Minerals Pipeline (Acquisition of Right of Users in Land) Act, 1962. The notifications and notices under Section 3 and 5 of the Act have been issued. The hearing of objections has commenced. Matters relating to objections and award of compensation will be settled in accordance with the provisions of the Act. The project is scheduled for commission by March, 2001.

[Translation]

Services of Public Doctors Available to Private Hospitals

2528. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the doctors and specialists working in various Government hospitals, in the country particularly in Delhi are interested to work in private hospitals;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the percentage of senior doctors and surgeons of Government hospitals who have started working in private hospitals during each of the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken to retain the doctors in the Government hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALA) : (a) and (b) The feedback received from the Central Government Hospitals and those under the National Capital Territory of Delhi does not indicate that the doctors are leaving to join private hospitals in significant numbers. However, there are always cases of doctors Leaving for various personal reasons including assignments in the private sector and abroad. Over the last three years about 2% doctors from the total Central Health Services cadre have resigned on personal grounds. No indication has been given by such doctors about their joining private hospitals.

(c) A number of measures have been taken to increase the satisfaction level of doctors by giving them opportunities to travel, widen their knowledge and present research papers at national and international fora, besides improving their working conditions to the extent resources permit.