

- (ii) Write-off of accumulated interest/penal interest on GOI loans (upto 31.3.96) amounting to Rs. 44.99 crore.
- (iii) Interest holiday on GOI loans (Rs. 23.06 crore) for a period of two years from 1.4.96.
- (iv) Moratorium of repayment of GOI loan of Rs. 23.06 crore for a period of three years w.e.f. 1.4.96. This will be repaid in six equal annual instalments from 1999-2000.
- (v) Grant of Rs. 13.93 crore (upto 31.3.98) for implementation of Voluntary Retirement Scheme to facilitate enbloc rationalisation of surplus manpower.

(f) and (g) Government has accorded first stage clearance to Krishak Bharti Cooperative Ltd. (KRIBHCO) on 21.10.97 to set up a modern, standard ammonia/urea plant at Gorakhpur at an estimated cost of Rs. 1370.85 crore, using the existing infrastructure of the FCI plant. The detailed feasibility report of the project has been considered by the appraising agencies.

The proposal will be considered for investment approval as per the prescribed procedure after finalisation of the demand projections for 'N' nutrient in the terminal year of the Ninth Plan and the policy for capacity accretion, which is being reformulated in the light of the recommendations of the High Powered Fertilizers Pricing Policy Review Committee.

Fraud by Travel Agencies

4893. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several travel agencies in big cities are engaged in defrauding a large number of persons of their money on the pretext of getting them lucrative jobs in gulf countries;

(b) if so, the number of cases detected during the last three years;

(c) the details of agencies against which action has been taken;

(d) whether the Government propose to bring forward any legislation for foreign going labourers to regulate their recruitment and to look after the welfare of those labourers;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Smuggling of Arms

4894. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether smuggling of explosive arms has been detected in Andaman Islands;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to prevent the arms smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) In a combined Services operation conducted by the Army, Navy and Air Force and the Coast Guard in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands on the 10th/11th February, 1998, 73 gun-runners, two gun boats and two trawlers containing arms and ammunition were captured. The Central Bureau of Investigation has been entrusted with the investigation of the case which is sub-judice. Similarly, on the 30th May, 1998, the Indian Navy with the support of Coast Guard intercept two trawlers and 26 persons alongwith some ammunition were apprehended. All the apprehended persons were handed over to the local police at Port Blair for interrogation.

(c) Proper vigilance is being maintained by the Armed Forces for preventing smuggling of arms in the North-Eastern region through Sea routes.

Recognition to Tamilnadu State Health and Family Welfare Society

4895. SHRI VAIKO : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state: