

Seizure of Foreign Currency by CBI

8278. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI has recently recovered foreign currency worth Rs. 6.3 lakhs allegedly misappropriated few years back in State Bank of Travancore;

(b) if so, full facts in this regard; and

(c) the further action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. Central Bureau of Investigation has reported that after registration of case no. 6 (A)/90-KER dated 28.2.90, searches were conducted at the residence of a former manager of Kadakkavoor branch, State Bank of Travancore on 9.3.90 and, as a result thereof, foreign currency worth approximately Rs. 6.3 lakhs was seized, besides 128 items of incriminating documents. The bank has placed the manager under suspension.

Decline in Export to Industrialised Countries

8279. SHRI MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA:
SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:
SHRI L.K. ADVANI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian exports to industrialised countries (OECD) have declined during 1985-88 as compared to 1982-85 as reported by a FICCI study; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the

steps taken by Government to give greater export impetus for export to these countries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU):
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Scheme for Legal Aid to Poor

8280. DR. VENKATESH KABDE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a mechanism has been set up to review the scheme of 'Legal aid for poor';

(b) if so, the results of evaluation of such programme; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to provide free legal aid to poor people?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) and (b). No formal All-India review of the working of the scheme of 'Legal Aid for poor' has yet been done. Committee for Implementing Legal Aid Schemes was set up in September, 1980 and it took some time to become functional. In the initial years, greater emphasis was put on setting up of the State and Union Territory Boards and for provision of a common pattern of approach to the problems. From 1985, activities were expanded and Lok Adalat system came to be accepted as a modality for disposal of cases. The Legal Aid Programme, including the Lok Adalats, are often attended by the Executive Chairman and other officers of the Committee for Implementing Legal Aid Schemes. Thus, there is a constant feed-back regarding implementation of the Legal Aid Programme as also the functioning and achievements of the Lok Adalats held in various parts of the

country. In due course, Government may take up a review.

(c) The Legal Aid Programme adopted by the Committee for Implementing Legal Aid schemes is of two-fold nature (a) Court-oriented Litigation; and (b) Preventive or Strategic Legal Aid Programmes.

Under the Court-oriented Litigation, free legal services are provided to the poor and weaker sections of the society whose annual income from all sources does not exceed Rs. 6000/- for the Munsif and High Court cases and Rs. 9000/- before the Supreme Court. This income ceiling will be enhanced to Rs. 9000/- upto High Courts and Rs. 12,000/- for the Supreme Court cases with the enforcement of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. The limitation as to income is not applicable in case of persons belonging to scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Nomadic Tribes and Vimukta Jatis; women and children,

Incentive to Spices Growers

8281. SHRI Y.S. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total value and quantity of spices imported in 1989-90;

(b) the steps taken to improve local production of spices;

(c) whether there are incentive schemes to encourage growers to grow spices; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI AR-ANGIL SHREEDHARAN): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

[*Translation*]

Frauds in Nainital Bank Limited

8282. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some officers of the Nainital Bank Limited which is under the administrative control of the Bank of Baroda have been dismissed on charges of embezzlement;

(b) if so, the number thereof and the amount embezzled by them;

(c) the date when the Bank of Baroda took over the Nainital Bank Limited; and

(d) the amount embezzled since the Bank of Baroda took over the Nainital Bank Limited?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (d). Nainital Bank Limited is an independent banking company and has not been taken over by Bank of Baroda. However, Bank of Baroda holds certain shares in the Nainital Bank Limited.

Nainital Bank Limited has reported that it has not dismissed any officer on charges of embezzlement. However, the bank had terminated the services of three officers during the last eleven years on different grounds.

[*English*]

Review of Newsprint Prices

8283. SHRI NARSINGRAO SURYA-WANSHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to review/reduce the price and improve the quality of indigenous newsprint;