

Armed Forces

Army personnel Arrested in Ambala Cantt.

3994. SHRI KIRPAL SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some army personnel in the Rank of Naiks and Jawans belonging to unit 24 Medium Regiment (S.P) Ambala Cantt., were arrested on 24 February, 1986 at Ambala Cantt.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the stage at which the matter stands at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) Yes, Sir. Only one Naik was arrested and detained in Military custody.

(b) and (c). He was suspected to be involved in extremist activities and was detained in Military custody under Section 125 of the Army Act. Thereafter the matter was investigated after interrogation by civil and intelligence agencies and finally he was dismissed from service under the Army Act on 25.8.86. After his dismissal, he was reported to have been arrested by the civil police, but the case against him was dismissed by the Civil Court, Kurukshetra, and the individual was released. Later, he filed a Civil Writ Petition in the High Court of Punjab and Haryana against his dismissal from service. The case is yet to come up for hearing.

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Biotechnology and Third World

3995. SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the report "Biotechnology and the Third World" according to which some powerful biochemical techniques have come to the help of the gene black-marketeers;

(b) if so, whether Government have noticed any Indian company indulging in black market of genes;

(c) if so, the particulars of such cases detected; and

(d) the remedial action taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): (a) Yes, Sir;

(b) No, Sir;

(c) and (d). In view of (b) above, question does not arise.

Public Security 21-93

Study by Scope on Directors of Central Public Enterprises

3996. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to a study conducted by the Standing conference on Public Enterprises (SCOPE), there is a serious lack of accountability on the part of Government directors of Central Public Enterprises (PSE);

(b) if so, the various aspects relating to accountability approach to decision making, influence and control of Board composition on which the SCOPE has expressed its concern; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN): (a) The study conducted by the Standing Conference of public Enterprises (SCOPE) does not indicate any serious lack of accountability on the part of the Government Directors of Central public Enterprises, but points out that there is a need for improvement in the system.

(b) and (c). This study has suggested certain measures to obtain desirable objectives and most of these have already been covered by the study conducted by the Economic Administration Reforms Commission (EARC) in the early eighties. Government have accepted the EARC recommendations and the Govt. Directors have been apprised of those.

Criteria for Public Investment in Public Sector Undertakings

3997. SHRI K. S. RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the working group headed by the former SAIL Chairman has suggested new criteria for public investment in Public Sector Undertakings during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details of the new criteria suggested for public investment; and

(c) Government's reaction to the suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN): (a) and (b). As part of the exercise initiated by the Planning Commission for formulating the Eighth Plan, a Working Group had been set up on the

management of Public Enterprises. This working Group was headed by Shri V. Krishnamurthy, formerly Chairman, Steel Authority of India Limited. In its report, the Working Group has, *inter alia*, recommended the following criteria for new public investment:

- (i) that such investment is really necessary on grounds of policy or strategy;
- (ii) that the draft on Government's budget is minimal;
- (iii) that the internal rate of return is good and not just marginal. where a low-return investment is approved, the economic price to be paid for securing the relevant objectives should be clearly recognised;
- (iv) that public investment need not mean total ownership by Government; and
- (v) that the cost of import substitution should be carefully considered. The question of 'make' or 'buy' should be examined in each case, but with due regard to the full economic implications of either alternative.

(c) The strategies for investment in the Eighth Plan are being formulated. The recommendations of this Working Group will be kept in view while finalizing the details of the Plan.

[Translation]

Smuggling of Tendu Leaves

3998. SHRI SIMON MARANDI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state: