

amount fixed in India was Rs. 31 and Rs. 24.80 respectively. The difference arises on account of two reasons. One is the interest earned by the investments in these two different countries. In U.K. the return on our investments is of the order of 12.4 per cent whereas in India, the return on our investments is of the order of about 7 per cent. Therefore, there is a larger return in respect of the investments in U.K. and so greater profits are made in that country and a higher bonus is declared in that country. The profits in India are based on the return which we get in this country and therefore, it is low.

श्री कृष्ण प्रताप सिंह : अध्यक्ष महोदय, अपने देश में एल० आई० सी० के कम्पिटिशन में कई गैर सरकारी कम्पनियां काम कर रही हैं जिनकी प्रीमियम दर कम है और वे बोनस भी ज्यादा देती हैं। क्या सरकार इस बात पर विचार करेगी कि एल० आई० सी० भी प्राइवेट कम्पनियों की प्रीमियम दर के मुताबिक अपनी प्रीमियम दर घटावे और बोनस दर के मुताबिक बोनस बढ़ा दे ?

दूसरे, जो एल० आई० सी० की बर्किंग के बारे में समाचार पत्रों में छपता रहा है, क्या उसकी जांच करने के लिए और बोनस के सम्बन्ध में सरकार सदन की एक कमेटी बनायेगी जो सब चीजों की जांच कर के अपना प्रतिवेदन दे ?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: There is a committee which is going into the working of the LIC.

### Steps to control Drug Abuse

\*168. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that illicit production and trafficking in narcotics has grown to vast proportions in different parts of the world, including this country; and

(b) if so, what steps do Government contemplate taking to control drug abuse?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA): (a) and (b). A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

### Statement

(a) Reports received by Government indicate that illicit production and trafficking in narcotic drugs have considerably escalated in different parts of the world. However, cultivation of opium poppy in India is permitted only under strict system of licensing and control. Production of Cannabis resin (i.e. Charas or Hashish) is totally banned in India and the reports show that the problem of illicit cultivation and trafficking in drugs is well under control. Indian opium and other drugs of Indian origin have seldom figured in international seizures.

(b) Government have taken stringent measures to prevent illicit production and trafficking in narcotic drugs. The problem of drug addiction in the country was examined by a high level Committee appointed by Government in June, 1976. This Committee has made several recommendations such as introduction of appropriate legislative measures, initiating educational programme; use of mass media for creating awareness amongst the public about the ill effects of drug abuse and development of facilities for treatment of drug addicts. These recommendations are under consideration of Government.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: India is the major producer of opium and Cannabis in the whole world. More than 80 per cent of the entire production comes from this country. The students, particularly, in major cities are resorting to the consumption of narcotics and a survey has shown that more than 60 per cent of students in Delhi are resorting to that. I would like to know from the

hon. Minister whether the Government will tighten the drug control law, namely, whether it will make the possession of *ganja*, which at present is legal upto 25 g., illegal for non-medical uses and, secondly, I would also like to know whether in the new drug law the hard drugs, like LSD and Mendrake will be included, by a suitable amendment in the legislation.

**SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA:**  
There is a well-planned law in the country and it has been time and again brought to the notice of the Government that all the narcotic drugs should be brought under one law. This is under the consideration of the Government.

**SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO:**  
Though it is mentioned in the statement that trafficking in such drugs is not very common in India, it so happens that India is located near one of the nerve centres of the drug traffic which consists of Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nepal and Burma. May I know whether the Government will enter into a cooperation agreement at regional and inter-regional level with such countries and other countries to control effectively this trafficking in drug narcotics?

**SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA:**  
It is a good suggestion.

**SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA:**  
Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state what happened to the recommendation of the high-powered committee appointed by the then Government of India in June, 1976?

**SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA:**  
It is mentioned in the statement itself. I may read it out:

“Government have taken stringent measures to prevent illicit production and trafficking in narcotic drugs. The problem of drug addiction in the country was exa-

mined by a high level Committee appointed by Government in June, 1976. This Committee has made several recommendations such as introduction of appropriate legislative measures, initiating educational programme; use of mass media for creating awareness amongst the public about the ill effects of drug abuse and development of facilities for treatment of drug addicts. These recommendations are under consideration of Government.”

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WRITTEN ANSWERS TO  
QUESTIONS

**Indo-Pak Tourist Traffic**

\*169. **SHRI CHANDRABHAN  
ATHARE PATIL:**

**SHRI M. RAM GOPAL  
REDDY:**

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Begum Viqar-Un-Nisa Noon, Chairman of the Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation has met him and given proposals to introduce tourists visas between the two countries for promoting Indo-Pak tourist traffic; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Government in the matter?

**THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK):** (a) Yes, Sir. During her recent visit to Delhi, Begum Viqar-Ur-nisa Noon, Advisor on Tourism to the President of Pakistan, met the Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation and made a suggestion to promote tourist traffic between India and Pakistan.

(b) This is being examined by Government.