

officials at the block level; and

- (f) Observing of one day in a week as non-banking working day for the rural branches.

#### **Action for Restrictive and Unfair Trade Practices**

743. SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS: Will the Minister of LOW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is abnormal price-rise in sectors like cement, tyre, soap, toothpaste and medicines due to profiteering and unfair trade practices by the companies; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY): (a) and (b). The MRTP Commission has instituted inquires against some tyre, cement, drug and consumer product companies on their alleged manipulation of prices or taking concerted action in fixing prices. The provisions of the MRTP Act have been recently further strengthened through the MRTP (Amendment) Act, 1991 in order to enable the Commission to take appropriate action in respect of monopolistic, restrictive and unfair trade practices.

#### **Drug Trafficking in Bombay**

744. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States Drug Enforcement Administration has rated Bombay as the World's third or fourth biggest heroin transshipment port;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken and proposed to be taken by the Government to apprehend the drug traffickers in Bombay; and

(d) the success achieved during the last two years in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Government are not aware of any such report.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). The government of India has established a Zonal Office of the Narcotics Control Bureau at Bombay. The Bombay police has established a Narcotics Cell headed by a Deputy Commissioner of Police to deal exclusively with drug matters. The Flying Squad of State Excise Department is also entrusted with enforcement activities in vulnerable areas in Bombay Corporation and other areas. The other enforcement agencies like, Customs, Central Excise, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, etc. Also keep strict vigil in the matter. The multi-pronged enforcement action taken against drug traffickers has shown very good results as would be evident from the seizure of heroin and the number of arrests made under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 in Bombay as given below:-

<i>Year</i>	<i>Quantity of heroin seized in Kgs.</i>	<i>Number of Arrests</i>
1990	990	151
1991	326	241
1992	259	36

(till 7-4-92)