

(b) if so, the specific items that are being stolen;

(c) whether the Government have arrested some culprits in this regard; and

(d) the steps being taken to curb such thefts ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. There are few cases of theft involving the following items :—

- (i) Bethabuthol/Nepthol/Aromine Chemical Powders, (ii) Sodium Hydrosulphate, (iii) Ampiciline/Amoxiciline Tryhydrate, (iv) Chloropromazine Hydrochloride, (v) Sulphomethaxazole, (vi) Thiofiline Unhydriss BP-18.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) A number of steps have been taken including (i) Intensive patrolling in the docks and outlying container areas by Police and Security personnel, (ii) As far as possible, nominated route movement for container traffic from docks to container yards, (iii) Monitoring of road vehicle's movement carrying containers, (iv) Escorting of containers with valuable chemicals when carried during night, and (v) Storage of chemicals in the shed inside the lock fast.

#### **International Narcotics Control Strategy**

4282. SHRI MUKUL BAL-KRISHNA WASNIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the US State Department

report of March, 1991 on "International Narcotics Control Strategy" wherein it has been stated that the India is the largest producer of opium in the world for pharmaceutical uses but despite announced intentions by the Government to increase control and monitoring, the diversion of its illicit opium and unlicensed cultivation is growing;

(b) whether the counter narcotics efforts have suffered from a lack of adequate resources, effective policy co-ordination and vigorous implementation; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) to (c) The Government of India are aware of the U.S. State Department report of March, 1991 on "International Narcotics Control Strategy". Government of India does not agree with some of the observations made in the report regarding diversion from licit opium and illicit cultivation of opium poppy. The elaborate system of controls perfected by the Government of India over a long period of time was adopted as a model by the International Community for formulating Article 23 of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961. The United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control delegation which visited India in October, 1986 commended the strict control exercised over cultivation and storage of opium in India. One of the largest buyers of opium from India in USA conducted a survey of opium production and security in India during February-March, 1991 and has brought out a booklet in April, 1991 based on that survey, commending

the Indian system of control on poppy cultivation. In spite of resources constraints, Government of India attaches very high priority to tackle illicit trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, and the results achieved by Indian enforcement agencies have been appreciated by I.C.P.O.-INTERPOL and the International Narcotics Control Board. Successive reports of the INTERPOL indicate that now about 70% of the heroin emanating from South West Asia reaches Europe via Iran and Turkey through the Balkan route instead through India which has been mainly attributed to the stringent enforcement measures taken by the authorities in India.

12.00 hrs.

## STATEMENT BY MINISTER

### Developments in Soviet Union

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Yesterday, the House wanted to get the information on what is happening in Soviet Union. I think, the Foreign Minister is ready with the information. I would request him to make the statement.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): Hon'ble Members will recall that on the 20th August, 1991, I had informed this august House of the developments that had taken place in the USSR on 19th August, 1991. Since then, events in the Soviet Union have moved at a very fast pace. On 21st August, the Soviet Parliament's Steering Presidium formally declared the ouster of President Gorbachev illegal and reinstated him as President. President returned to Moscow in the early hours of 22nd August. He has since

resumed his duties as President at Moscow.

Yesterday, our Prime Minister sent a message to President Gorbachev, expressing his relief and happiness at his and his family's well-being and expressing the satisfaction of the Government and the people of India at his resumption of duties as the President of the U.S.S.R. Prime Minister has also sent a message to Mr. Boris Yeltsin, President of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republics (RSFSR) appreciating his role in the restoration of constitutional order in the U.S.S.R.

What has happened in the Soviet Union is a reassertion of democratic values and a triumph of the will of the people. These are the values to which we ourselves are deeply committed and on which our polity is based.

Hon'ble Members are aware, of the unique role of President Gorbachev in initiating the process of *glasnost* and *perestroika* and a vision of a world based on disarmament, peace and cooperation—a vision which we share and which has been reflected in the Delhi Declaration on Principles for a Nuclear Weapon-Free and Non-Violent World, signed by the former Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi and President Gorbachev on 27th November, 1986.

President Gorbachev has also played a stellar role in adding new dimensions to the time-tested, warm and friendly Indo-Soviet relations based on mutual interest and trust. The Government of India is convinced that these relations will grow from strength to strength.

I am sure that the House will join me in conveying our best wishes to