

**News Item Captioned "Barood Dipo SE Goliyan Gayab"**

**259. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK:** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Barood Dipo Se Goliyan Gayab Mamla Dabane ki koshish" appearing in 'Jansatta' dated October 29, 1991;

(b) if so, whether the Government have conducted an inquiry in this regard and action has been taken against the concerned employees;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reason therefor?

**THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR):** (a) to (d). Loss of 5762 rounds of 7.62 mm ammunition was detected from a railway consignment received at the Ammunition Depot, Bharatpur, on 16th March, 1989. The inspection of the consignment revealed bricks and stones inside some of the boxes in place of the ammunition found deficient. A Court of Inquiry was convened by the Army authorities to investigate the circumstances of the loss. The Inquiry was unable to provide leads for the recovery of the lost ammunition. The Court recommended administrative and disciplinary action against three officers, two Non-Commissioned Officers and two Civilian Storekeepers of the Ammunition Depot, Bharatpur, for negligence in performing their duties. The action against the combatants has been completed. Disciplinary action against the civilian staff is in progress.

**Problems of Exporters on withdrawal of CCA and Announcement of New Trade Policy**

**260. SHRI RAM KAPSE:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the exporters have been facing problems after the withdrawal of cash compensatory support and the announcement of the new trade policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM):** (a) to (c). Exporters have experienced difficulties as a result of withdrawal of the scheme of Cash Compensatory Support w.e.f. 3.7.91. However, other measures taken by Government including adjustment of exchange rate, the re-structuring and expansion of the 'Replenishment Licence Scheme', introduction of a uniform REP rate of 30% of the f.o.b. value and other liberalised trade policies have more than offset the disadvantage of withdrawal of CCS.

**Trade Negotiations with Russian Republic**

**261. THE PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are conducting separate trade negotiations with the Russian Republic of the Soviet Union;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to set up a Joint Commission to discuss the main issues of Indo-Russian Co-operation;

(c) whether any trade protocol is likely to be signed with the Russian Republic;

(d) whether such negotiations are going on with other Soviet Republics also and

whether separate trade protocols are proposed to be signed with them; and

(e) if so, the names of such Republics?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). Yes Sir. The trade negotiations with the Russian Republic are likely to commence shortly. There is as yet no formal proposal to set up an an Indo-Russian Joint Commission.

(d) and (e). A trade agreement has already been concluded with the Republic of Uzbekistan. Preliminary talks in this regard have also been held with Kazaksthan and Kirghizia.

[Translation]

**Sainik Rest House at Kotdwar  
(Garhwal)**

262. SHRIBHUWANCHANDRAKHAN-DURI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a Sainik rest house in Kotdwar (Garhwal);

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) No proposal has been received from Government of Uttar Pradesh for setting up of a Sainik Rest House at Kotdwar (Garhwal).

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

**Elections in Punjab**

263. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has since been taken for holding elections in Punjab in February next; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken for ensuring fair and free elections in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Elections in Punjab are proposed to be held before February, 15, 1992 though firm dates for holding elections in Punjab have not yet been decided.

(b) Government has already taken adequate steps to deal with terrorist violence, to provide security to the citizens and to maintain law and order. The Governor of Punjab has been touring various parts of the state alongwith senior officers and is attending to the grievance of the people in an effort to bridge the gap between the administration and the people. Attention is also being paid to the economic development of the State and to create more job opportunities for the youth, especially the educated unemployed to wean them away from taking to the terrorist path. All possible efforts are being made to create necessary atmosphere for the conduct of fair polls in the state. Further necessary steps will be taken to ensure free and fair poll as and when these are held.

[Translation]

**Alleged Irregularities in Customs  
House in Bombay**

264. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR:  
SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA: