

ceived complaints against M/s. Favourite small Investment Limited, 24, Community Centre Mayapuri Phase-I, New Delhi, regarding defalcation of public money not paid to the matured policy holders of Jammu & Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c). Some complaints regarding non-payment of maturity value have been received by Government and RBI against M/s. Favourite Small Investment Ltd., having their head office at Calcutta. RBI have forwarded these complaints to the company for necessary action. The company have reported to RBI that they make payment to the certificate holders in a phased manner after scrutinising their claim papers.

51 **Persons held on Charges of Smuggling Heroin**

5990. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some persons held on charges of attempting to smuggle out heroin were recently let off by the customs officials;

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

(c) the further action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) No such case has been reported.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

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Reopening of ports in Maharashtra and Goa

5991. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some ports in the country have been granted the status of international ports;

(b) if so, the names of these ports, State-wise;

(c) whether some of the ports in western coast of Maharashtra and Goa have been closed;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and since when these have been closed;

(e) whether the Government have any plan to reopen these ports;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTRLER): (a) and (b) There are 11 major ports under the Central Government and 139 minor/intermediate ports. No special status of international port is granted by the Government to any port. Ships from all countries can call on these ports subject to customs procedures.

(c) to (g) No major port in western coast of Maharashtra and Goa has been closed. As regards minor ports, the required information is being collected from the State Governments and will be laid on the Table of the House.