

[Translation]

Exchange Rate of Rupee

671. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring any further change in the rupee exchange rate in future;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) if not, the time by which package trade reforms are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR):

(a) No, Sir. There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to bring any further change in the rupee exchange rate.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Implementation of package of trade reforms, as announced by Commerce Minister, on 4th July, 1991, has commenced through a series of notifications dated 4th July, 1991.

[English]

R.B.I. Survey Regarding Loan Waiver Scheme

672. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH:

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a sample survey conducted by the Reserve Bank of India of certain branches of the nationalised banks in the country has revealed exaggerated claims regarding loan waiver scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India has reported that test checks were conducted by its Regional Offices in selected branches of the public sector commercial banks in each of the districts in the country to ensure that the eligibility criteria laid down in the Agricultural & Rural Debt Relief (ARDR) Scheme, 1990 have been followed by them. RBI has further reported that a consolidated report on the test checks is under preparation.

Diamond Export

673. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in Times of India dated 6 June, 91 stating that finished diamond worth Rs. 600 crore did not find their way either to the local market or in the exported jewellery; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news item is reportedly based on a study of the Diamond Industry in Gujarat conducted by the State Joint Industries Commissioner. The details of the study have been sought from the Government of Gujarat.

Narcotics Smuggling

674. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of narcotics smuggling detected during the years 1990 and 1991 so far, state-wise;