

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). It is a fact that India has, for sometime past, been increasingly facing the problem of transit traffic in drugs, especially in heroin and hashish, originating in the near and Middle East Region.

The communication network facilities available are utilised to effectively curb drug smuggling. The need for effective communication links between drug law enforcement agencies to enhance inter-regional co-operation and co-ordination to fight illicit drug traffic has also been recognised by various international bodies.

(c) While an estimate of the quantity of drugs leaking into India during transit traffic is not available, Government is concerned about this situation and has been taking necessary steps to prevent illicit traffic in drugs. A new organisation *riz.* the 'Narcotics Control Bureau' has been set up for the purpose of effectively co-ordinating action against illicit traffic in drugs. As a result of various measures taken by the Government, the quantities of drugs seized have increased significantly in the recent past. Particularly, the quantities of heroin and hashish seized in the first six months of 1986 have already exceeded the quantities of these drugs seized in the entire year of 1985.

Reservation of items for Handloom sector

2116. SHRI SODE RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the reservation of certain item for Handloom sector introduced in March 1986 has been stayed by the courts;

(b) if so, how it has affected the handloom workers; and

(c) steps taken by Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) and (c). The proviso under Section 5 of the Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985 specifically provides for continuation of the production of three served items till the expiry of three months from the date of such reservation i.e., in this case upto 30th June, 1986. Hence, it is too early to estimate the effect of the stay by the Courts on Handlooms: However Government is taking suitable steps to contest these cases in the courts,

Implementation of DRI scheme in Banks

2117. KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that due to shortage of staff, the nationalised banks are unable to implement the D.R.I. scheme in the country; and

(b) if so, whether Government have any proposal to depute some more staff to the various banks for this purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). The percentage of Differential Rate of Interest advances of the public sector banks as at the end of March, 1986 to their total advances outstanding at the end of previous year had exceeded the stipulated target of 1 per cent. Hence, it cannot be inferred that nationalised banks are not able to implement the differential Rate of Interest scheme.

Adoption of villages by State Bank of India

2118. SHRI A. CHARLES : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Union Government that Kerala has been neglected by the State Bank of India in the adoption of villages in the community development programmes;

(b) the number of villages adopted by the bank in the Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and in Kerala; and