

(a) whether in view of large number of sick and closed industries in the State of West Bengal rendering lakhs of workers unemployed, Government propose to issue instructions to nationalised banks operating in the State to reduce the margin requirements to a maximum of 15 per cent in deserving cases for advancing against commodities not covered by selective credit controls in order to help the State to combat economic recovery;

(b) if so, by what time such instructions are likely to be issued; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). Reserve Bank of India considers granting specific relaxations in credit facilities, in areas affected by particular problems like natural calamities, political disturbances, etc. The position of sick units in West Bengal does not necessitate a specific relaxation as regards reduction in margin for extending financial assistance to sick units.

Sanction of Loans to sick units in West Bengal

1128. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether in view of special circumstances arising out of large number of sick and closed industries in West Bengal rendering lakhs of workers unemployed, Government propose to issue instructions to nationalised banks operating in that State to sanction on merit additional working capital credit to commercial borrowers to the extent of 50 per cent;

(b) if so, by what time such instructions are likely to be issued; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that it considers extending specific relaxa-

tions in credit facilities to industrial/commercial borrowers in areas which may be affected by particular problems such as natural calamities, political disturbance, etc. RBI has also reported that conditions of sick units in West Bengal do not call for any such relaxation. The commercial banks consider sanction of working capital limits to various units depending upon merits of each case according to guidelines issued by RBI from time to time.

Trade between India and Mauritius

1129. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any trade agreement between India and Mauritius; and

(b) if so, the quantum of trade in rupees in the year 1985 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) India's trade with Mauritius during 1985 was as follows :—

	(Rs. crores)
Exports	15.10 (Provisional)
Imports	0.08 (Provisional)

Source : DGCI and S, Calcutta.

Searches on Premises of Officers of Department of Revenue

1130. SHRI H. B. PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some searches have been made on the premises of officers of the Income-tax, Excise and Customs Departments and of other officers of the Department of Revenue during the last six months;

(b) if so, the total value of wealth and precious metals seized during the course of searches;

(c) whether some foreign goods have been seized and if so, the value thereof and

the number of officials from whose possession these goods were seized; and

(d) the number of officers from whose houses incriminating documents were recovered ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Supply of Arms to Pakistan by U. S.

1131. SHRI RANJITSINGH GAEKWAD :
SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA
MURTY :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have seen newspaper reports about sale of 300 pieces of Copperhead, one of the most sophisticated Cannon-launched and Laser guided artillery projectiles ever produced by the U.S.A., costing about 38000 a piece to Pakistan;

(b) whether Pakistan has already received from U.S.A. a consignment of 100 Sidewinder air-to-air Missiles, with an all aspect attack capability;

(c) whether this sophisticated weaponry being provided to Pakistan by U.S.A. is a potential threat to the security of our country; and

(d) if so, reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS - AND THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir.

(d) Government continues to maintain a constant vigil over all developments having a bearing on the country's integrity and security.

Irregularities in Purchases by Supply Departments

1132. SHRI P. M. SAYEED : Will the

Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the latest report of the Comptroller and Auditor General has revealed some serious irregularities committed in purchases by the Department of Supply;

(b) if so, the items of purchases and the amounts involved therein;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted responsibility fixed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) Nine paras have been included against Department of Supply in the CAG's Audit Report of 1984-85, pointing out certain commissions and commissions, leading to some extra expenditure and losses.

(b) The items purchased are—Trawlers and Tugs/Rs. 78.13 lakhs, Wooden packing cases/Rs. 10.59 lakhs, Tubular polythene bags/Rs. 2.17 lakhs, Jute unproofed canvas mail bags/Rs. 3.17 lakhs, House Wiring cables/Rs. 3.11 lakhs, Boxes wooden partitioned/Rs. 2.65 lakhs, Helmet spares/Buffer horizontal/Rs. 2.11 lakhs, Horizontal boring machine/Rs. 1.52 lakhs and Mobile diesel generating set/Rs. 0.95 lakhs.

(c) and (d). As per procedure enquiry in the form of Vigilance examination is conducted in all such cases before fixing responsibilities. All the cases, as brought out in the nine paras included in the latest report of the CAG of India, are being examined from Vigilance angle and responsibility if any, shall be fixed after completion of the examination.

[Translation]

Iran-Iraq War

1133. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Iran-Iraq conflict has again aggravated recently; and