

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Indian Council for Cultural Relations receives grants-in-aid from the ministry of External Affairs.

(b) The details of the grant received during the last three years are as follows:—

(Rs. in Crores)	
Year	Amount
1991-92	13.50
1992-93	14.55
1993-94	15.00

(c) and (d). The activities and the programmes of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations are regularly monitored and *viz.*, the General Assembly, the Governing Body and the Finance Committee. As per the Constitution of the Council, the Governing Body has been entrusted with the responsibility for the supervision and control of the work of the Council. Additionally, the Foreign Secretary is *ex-officio* Vice-President of the ICCR. The Financial Advisor in the Ministry of External Affairs is the Financial Advisor to the Council and is a Member of the Finance Committee. This ensures that the activities and the programme of the Council are carried out within the framework of the broad mandate given to the Council.

(e) Does not arise.

Shipping Industry

137. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY:
SHRI BOLLA BULLI
RAMAIAH:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have set up a Committee to examine the scope for further liberalisation in the shipping industry;

(b) if so, the terms of reference of the Committee and whether State Governments' representatives have also been included in the Committee; and

(c) if so, the time by which the Committee is likely to submit its recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Group has been constituted to examine and make recommendations on the Indian national Ship-owners Association's request for further liberalising the controls. This includes:—

- (i) Review of guidelines on trade licence policy for ships;
- (ii) Proposal to issue safe Manning Certificate Scales for all categories of ships;
- (iii) Removal of Pre-conditions and other restrictions attached with approval letter for acquisition of ships;
- (iv) Setting up of time-bound norms for clearance and approval of various types of ships; and
- (v) Relaxation of age norms.

State Governments' representatives are not included in the Committee.

(c) The group is expected to submit its report in the near future.

Loans from Asian Development Bank

138. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited has recently proposed a set of projects to the Steel Ministry which involves taking of loans from the Asian Development Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

12.00 hrs.

RE: ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a copy of Lok Sabha : Practice and Procedure in my hands and I would like to take advantage of one of the rules of it.

This particular rule gives right to the hon. Members to move Adjournment Motion to discuss a particular matter. Since the Government have failed to

control the sugar price, therefore, I beg to move Adjournment Motion.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already given a notice to this effect, and it is under your consideration. It is a matter of public interest which is related with the day to day life of common man. Sugar is being sold at the rate of Rs. 16.50 per kg. in the open market...*(Interruptions)*... I wish to amend what I have stated, actually the sugar price has gone up to Rs. 20.00 per kg. Why has it happened? Was the Government not aware of the probability of inadequate production of sugarcane and consequently having lesser production of sugar? Was it not the duty of the Government to make prior arrangement for importing sugar? This Government has even not decided who would import the sugar. One Ministry blames the other while the concerned Minister rebukes his secretary in public. What does the Prime Minister's Secretariat do—only God knows?

The way in which sugar prices have soared in open market—has caused a loss of crores of rupees. Not only the sugar industrialists, but the traders have also earned huge profit. This is summer season, and the consumption of sugar is much more now a days because of the season of marriages and festival time. Moreover, the aspect of importing sugar from foreign countries should also be investigated. But the matter should be discussed extensively before doing so. This is our demand. It is not the first time that sugar scandal has taken place. In 1989 I was the Chairman of Public Accounts Committee and Shri Sukh Ram who hails from Himachal Pradesh, was the concerned Minister, perhaps he has still not forgotten the consequences he had to meet. Sugar is not always sweet, sometimes sugar tastes sour, and this the situation that prevails in the country