

### Hawala Racketeers

1734. SHRI G. K. KUPPUSWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that in the recent months, crores of Indian rupees regularly found their way into Bangladesh where hawala racketeers have found a new haven for laundering money; and

(b) if so, steps being taken by the Government to prevent this activity in border area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):

(a) and (b) Some cases of hawala transactions between India and Bangladesh have been detected by the Enforcement Directorate in the recent past. The Calcutta office of the Directorate has been alerted and strict vigil is being kept on such transactions.

### National Airports Authority

1735. SHRI UDAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether technical staff of National Airports Authority observed country-wide agitation in 1994 and also in early months of 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such strikes have become a regular feature; and

(d) the measures taken to avoid such strikes/agitations in future?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b), While there was no country-wide indefinite agitation in 1994, the National Airports Authority Technical Staff Union went on country-wide mass casual leave with effect from 1.2.1995 to 3.2.1995 with one day's advance notice to press their demand for time-bound promotion.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) To redress the grievances and avoid agitation by the employees, periodical meetings are held between the management and the unions to discuss staff problems and various issues raised by the Unions.

### Revenue loss in Petroleum Sector

1736. SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA KAUR (DEEPA):

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have been incurring massive revenue losses from petroleum sector;

(b) if so, the amount of loss incurred in the current financial year so far; and

(c) the steps being taken to plug the loopholes in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):

(a) to (c) The customs revenue from petroleum products during April, 94 January, 1995 has shown a shortfall of 15.75 per cent in comparison to the collection made in the corresponding period last year. This shortfall was mainly due to lower import of crude oil during 1994-95. However, collection of excise duty has shown an increase of 28.58 per cent during the said period.

### Consumption Pattern

1737. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:

PROF. ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Sample Survey Organisation has conducted a survey about the consumption pattern of various sectors of population in the first two years of the economic reforms process;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the rich-poor chasm has widened as a result of the economic reforms process;

(d) if so, its repercussion on the social set-up; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to arrest the process of marginalisation of the poor sections of society?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):

(a) The National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), Department of Statistics, Government of India has conducted Annual Survey on Consumer Expenditure during July-December, 1991 (Forty Seventh Round) and January-December, 1992 (Forty-Eighth Round).

(b) to (d). In the latest Survey, the data in sample refers to calendar year 1992, a year in which the economy was still substantially affected by the economic crisis of 1991-92. Therefore, it is an inappropriate sample to assess the benefits of economic reforms for the poor.

(e) To protect the weakest and the poorest segments of the society from the rigours of structural adjustment and stabilization policies during the transition, Government has substantially increased the Central Plan outlays for Social Sectors and poverty alleviation programmes in the last three budgets. The budgetary allocation for Education has been increased by 92 per cent over the past three years, with the outlay for Elementary Education going up by 129 per cent and that for Adult Education increasing by 95 per cent. The allocation for Health was hiked by 122 per cent. The Central Plan outlay for Rural Development, which encompasses the major programmes for poverty alleviation and employment generation, was raised by 148 per cent over the past three years to a level of Rs. 7700 crore in 1995-96 (BE).

The Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) and the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) were launched in 1993-94 and are being strengthened and expanded. New Schemes of National Social Assistance and Group Life Insurance have been proposed during 1995-96 budget for the benefit of the poor and needy. A scheme to provide

Mid-day Meals for primary school children has also been proposed in 1995-96 Budget.

#### Trade with Canada

1738. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK:  
SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Canadian Minister of International Trade and Economic Development has visited India recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof with objectives;
- (c) whether, as revealed in recent visit, Canada is willing to have joint venture collaborations with India in hydro and thermal power generation, construction, transportation, project management systems and technology fabrications;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether any trade agreement has been signed with Canada in this regard; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). Minister for International Trade of Canada, Mr. Roy Mac Laren visited India from 7th to 12th October, 1994 accompanied by a ministerial delegation and a large business delegation with the objective of exploring trade and investment opportunities in India.

(c) and (d). During the visit, Mr. Mac Laren informed that the Canadian companies are enthusiastic about the Investment Climate in India and a number of joint ventures and technology transfer agreements are being considered in the private sector.

(e) and (f) No trade agreement has been signed between the Government of India and the Government of Canada.

#### Import of Indian Steel by U.S.

1739. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH:  
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:  
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any new tariff has been announced by the US authorities on import of certain items including steel, stainless steel, wire rods and steel pipes and tubes from India subsequent to the GATT agreement and the establishment of World Trade Organisation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether such tariff revision was in pursuance of bilateral consultations or announced unilaterally; and
- (d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) India and the USA grant each other MFN status as contracting parties to GATT. USA has recently imposed anti-dumping duties on imports of certain stainless steel items from

India. Anti-dumping duty is imposed by Governments under national laws conforming to Article VI of GATT.

(d) As a matter of practice, Government extends technical assistance, to the extent possible, to individual exporters facing anti-dumping actions.

#### Boeing Jumbos

1740. SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Air India has recently been allowed to acquire two Boeing Jumbos;
- (b) if so, the total cost of the aircraft; and
- (c) the total number of aircraft with Air India after the new acquisition and those which are in operation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) Government has approved a proposal of Air India for acquisition of two B747-400 aircraft at an estimated cost of Rs. 1137.70 crores which are scheduled to be delivered in July and August, 1996. Air India has 26 aircraft in its fleet at present; with the addition of two more Boeing 747-400 aircraft the fleet strength would be 28 aircraft in 1996.

[Translation]

#### Seizure of Mandrax in Gujarat

1741. SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI:  
SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of raids conducted to seize mandrax in Gujarat during the year 1994-95 and the value of the mandrax seized during 1993-94 and 1994-95;
- (b) whether the quantity of mandrax seized during the current year is more than the quantity seized last year;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the number of persons arrested in this regard during the current year and the action taken against them, and
- (e) the concrete steps taken by the Government to check the smuggling of mandrax?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) There have been 2 cases of seizure of mandrax in Gujarat during the year 1994-95. No precise valuation of drugs, which are often of indeterminate strength and composition and are liable for destruction is feasible.

(b) Quantity of mandrax seized in Gujarat during the current year 1994-95 is 5660,500 kgs and during the last year 1993-94 it was 2067 kgs.

(c) Increased vigilance has resulted in seizures of large quantities.

(d) The number of persons arrested in Gujarat were 5. All persons are liable for stringent punishment under the NDPS Act.