

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Bench of Karnataka High Court at Hubli-Dharwad in accordance with the decision taken by the Government of Karnataka;

(b) whether the Government have also received any proposal from the State Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) to (d) The Government of Karnataka is of the view that a permanent Bench of the Karnataka High Court should be established at Hubli-Dharwad. However, the Chief Justice of the High Court has not so far endorsed the proposal. It is the policy of the Government of India that both the State Government and the High Court consider the matter from all angles and arrive at a consensus. As no complete proposal has been received from the Government of Karnataka, in consultation with the Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court, for establishment of a Bench of the High Court at Hubli-Dharwad, it is not possible for the Central Government to take a decision in the matter.

#### **Smuggling of Gold & Foreign Currency**

593. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the smuggling of gold and foreign currency are on the increase in the country;

(b) the number of cases brought to their notice between January and July this year, so far, alongwith the quantity and value of Gold and Foreign Currency seized;

(c) whether such incidents are more prevalent in Delhi;

(d) if so, the action taken by the Air Customs unit of Indira Gandhi International Airport;

(e) whether any action has been initiated against the persons smuggling gold and foreign currency; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) There is no intelligence indicating increase in smuggling of gold and foreign currency into this country.

(b) 378 Kg of gold valued at Rs. 1844 lakh and foreign currency valued at Rs. 2923 lakhs have been seized from January to July 1997 (Figures are provisional). The exact number of cases detected is being ascertained.

(c) Available reports do not suggest that incidents of smuggling are more prevalent in Delhi.

(d) NIL in view of (c) above.

(e) and (f) The persons found guilty are arrested and prosecuted. In appropriate cases detention of offenders under COFEPOSA is also made.

#### **Infrastructure Development in Border Areas**

594. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposals for infrastructure development in the border areas from the Government of Mizoram and Manipur are pending with the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof including financial outlays;

(c) the action taken to sanction the proposals during the current financial year;

(d) whether any proposals for the development of infrastructure in the border points of the North-Eastern India along the Myanmar, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Chinese Border is under consideration of the Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the financial outlays during the Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (e) A proposal received from Government of Mizoram for creation of a border township at Champai is being considered by the Ministry of Home Affairs which is the Nodal Ministry for considering the same.

A proposal has been received from the Government of Mizoram for sanction of Rs. 8.13 crores under the Critical Infrastructure Balance (CIB) Scheme for infrastructure development in Champai-Rih sector along Indo-Myanmar border and this is under consideration in this Ministry.

A number of steps have been taken by this Ministry to facilitate border trade with Myanmar via Moreh in Manipur corresponding to Tamu in Myanmar. The steps taken include banking, customs, immigration and other related trading arrangements.

Based on the recommendation of this Ministry, the Ministry of Home Affairs have agreed to extend the validity for installing the currency chest at Moreh for a period of twelve months.

#### **SIDBI's Loan to Small Scale Industries**

595. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the role played by the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) in the promotion of Small Scale Industries Sector in the Country; and

(b) the number of units established/provided loan by SIDBI in the States during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) The Small