

**Bonds for NRIs**

918. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are permitting Government of Gujarat to issue Bonds for Non-Resident Indians for SSP; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). No, Sir. Under the current policy, State Governments are not allowed to contract external borrowings in their name. State level PSUs may, however, access the domestic capital market with debt issues in accordance with the guidelines of the Securities & Exchange Board of India, and make reservations under such issues in favour of non-resident Indians subject to the approval of the Reserve Bank of India.

**Central Excise and Customs Duty Evasion**

919. SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the companies being proceeded against departmentally and or in courts where alleged Central Excise and or Customs duty evasion is over hundred crores;

(b) the names of the companies against which cases of this nature have been pending for over five years, either before CEGAT, High Courts or Supreme Court; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government for quick recovery of the amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Recovery can be enforced only after the duty liability has been confirmed in accordance with the law. Therefore, pendency of departmental proceedings is reviewed and monitored at various supervisory levels and the adjudicating authorities are advised from time to time to conclude them expeditiously. As regards the proceedings pending before the Courts and the Tribunal, steps taken to have these proceedings concluded at the earliest include the steps for having the stay vacated where recovery proceedings have been stayed, measures to have the cases listed early through issue - wise bunching of cases, reuests for earmarking of benches, especially to hear customs and central excise cases, and citing before the High Courts and the Tribunal, Supreme Court decisions on specific issues to have similar matters pending before them, decided expeditiously.

*[Translation]*

**Comprehensive Agriculture Development Scheme in Maharashtra**

920. SHRI DATA MEGHE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Maharashtra for the implementation of the comprehensive Agriculture Development Scheme in the State with the help of OPEC ;