

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to press reports, Bhilai Trading Company (BTC), a partnership concern was accepting deposits from the public, ranging from Rs. 40/- upwards, for 75 days on the promise of supply of goods twice the value of the deposit. A very large number of persons were reported to have made deposits with the firm.

Prima facie, the Reserve Bank considered the activities of the company as violative of the provisions of Chapter III C of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 which prohibits acceptance of deposits by individuals, firms and unincorporated associations of individuals from persons exceeding the stipulated number.

According to the available information, the State Government of Madhya Pradesh have initiated action and arrested three partners and an employee of the Company, sealed all the shops and seized the records.

Plan Introduced by Rourkela Steel Plant to Ensure Growth of Small Sector

218. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether any new plan has been introduced by the Rourkela Steel Plant to provide a steady flow of rate contracts to local units in the small sector; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the new areas alongwith the objective to ensure the growth of small units ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) and (b) No new plan has been introduced by the Rourkela Steel Plant to provide a steady flow of rate contracts to local units in the small scale sector. However, they have a system of entering

into rate contract with local small scale industries for some of the items. Rate contracts for 4 items have already been awarded to the local small scale units. The Plant is currently in the process of identifying more items for which rate contracts can be operated with supplies for a period of one or two years, with a provision for extension by another one year. So far the Plant has identified 238 items for which rate contract can be operated only after suitable parameters with regard to escalation clause are jointly agreed upon between the Plant authorities and the units.

Production and Export of Cardamom

219. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to stated :

(a) the quantity of cardamom exported during the years 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85 ;

(b) the names of the States which are producing cardamom and the quantity of cardamom purchased and exported by each State and agency through which the export is being made ; and

(c) the steps being taken to increase the production of cardamom in the country to meet the increasing demand of cardamom in foreign countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P. A. SANGMA):

(a) The export of Cardamom in terms of quantity is given below :

Year	Quantity
1982-83	1032 tonnes
1983-84	258 tonnes
1984-85	1960 tonnes

(April, 84-Feb. 85)