

[Translation]

Fall in Foreign Exchange Reserves

1794. PROF. CHANDRA BHANU DEVI : Will the minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign exchange reserves have registered considerable fall in the first six months of the current financial year; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken by Government to improve the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Licences to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for Setting up Hotels in Bihar

1795. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of tourist hotels set up in Bihar and the number out of these being run by Government and private parties separately;

(b) the percentage of licences given to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes out of the total number of licences granted;

(c) whether the Department of Tourism has not provided proper percentage to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in accordance with the Constitution; and

(d) whether Government propose to make special arrangement for giving licences for setting up hotels to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as per reservation entitlement ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT) : (a) There are 15 hotels in Bihar,

which have been approved by the Department of Tourism. Of these, two are in the public sector and the remaining 13 in the private sector.

(b) to (d). The granting of approval to hotels does not involve issuing of any licences to them and depends on the applications received. Hence the question of providing proper percentage to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes does not arise.

[English]

Seizure of Heroin Haul From Smugglers in Dehli

1796. SHRI T. BALA GOUD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Rupees One Crore worth heroin haul was seized from smugglers in Delhi as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' of 11 September, 1985; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). According to report received, the special staff of the Delhi north district police intercepted a car near northern ridge Chaburia road, Delhi and from the possession of two occupants, seized one Kg. of heroin found concealed in the lining of a brief case. The heroin was purported to be smuggled to Holland. No precise value of the drug seized can be furnished as the illicit market price varies widely depending upon the purity of the drug, local demand and supply position, etc.

A case has been registered under F. I. R. No. 294 on 10.9.1985.

[Translation]

Closing of Small Foundry Industries in Gujarat

1797. SHRI NARSINH MAKWANA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :