

(c) the places where such trees are likely to be cultivated ; and

(d) the funds allocated for the purpose, if any ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) There is no proposal currently under consideration of the Government of India to cultivate Rudraksha trees extensively.

(b) and (c) Propagation techniques of this species are known. Sporadic occurrence of this tree is noticed in North-Eastern India. However, the species could be cultivated in similar bio-climatic zones such as the Western Ghats.

(d) Provision of separate funds exclusively for cultivation of Rudraksha trees has not been made as the species could be introduced under various tree-planting programmes.

U.K. Aid for Mines

6773. SHRI P.M. SAYEED : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether United Kingdom signed two agreements recently for disbursement of grants under the British bilateral aid programme to India for mines ;

(b) if so, the total amount to be disbursed under each agreement ; and

(c) the projects which would be financed under the two agreements, separately ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The two agreements signed on 13 March, 1987 provide for a British grant of £73.55 million for the Rampura-Agucha Zinc/lead mine and associated smelter project

of Hindustan Zinc Limited and a grant of £31 million for coal mining projects. The grant for the zinc/lead project consists of £55 million (Rs. 113 crores) for imports of British goods and services, £18.30 million (Rs. 38 crores) for meeting Rupee costs and £250,000 (Rs. 5 lakhs) of technical assistance. The coal sector grant is for projectised and non-projectised imports of British goods and services for coal mining projects ; specific items to be covered by the coal sector grant are to be mutually agreed upon.

Delay in Fixation of Price of Cigarettes

6774. SHRI R.M. BHOYE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of various brands of cigarettes had gone up considerably in the market after presentation of the Budget 1987-88 although the cigarette companies had not refixed the prices of cigarettes consequent on the increase in the excise duty ;

(b) if so, the facts thereof ;

(c) whether any check was put by Government in this regard ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d) Reports received indicate that most of the cigarette companies had suspended clearances of cigarettes temporarily after the budget even though the Government had granted procedural relaxations in respect of pre-budget stocks of cigarettes. This might have resulted in increase in prices of cigarettes in the market to some extent. Cigarette manufacturers have been allowed more time to follow the revised procedural requirements. Reports received indicate that clearances of cigarettes have resumed and manufacturers have also announced revised prices of cigarettes.