

Import of Fire Arms by Private Persons

26. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether unusually large number of fire-arms are being imported daily by private persons ;

(b) whether any passenger can bring into the country fire-arms as general baggage after paying 340 per cent duty plus penalty upto 500 per cent ;

(c) whether these fire-arms are brought/imported by passengers coming from Singapore and Hongkong ;

(d) whether in July last year a retired Bragadier was arrested for possessing 3 revolvers and 450 cartridges at the airport ; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to stop import of fire-arms by private persons ?

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

(b) Persons of Indian origin returning from abroad can bring fire-arms of non-prohibited bores as baggage subject to payment of 340% duty and production of a valid licence under the Arms Act. Such persons cannot, however, bring more than one revolver/pistol or one rifle/shot gun, and such fire-arms cannot be sold within a period of 10 years.

(c) These fire arms are imported by persons coming from different countries including Singapore and Hongkong.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) On 19/20.7.84 one Shri Jagir Singh, a retired Brigadier was arrested at Palam Airport as he was found to possess three revolvers and 450 cartridges which

had not been declared by him. The revolvers and cartridges were detained. A Show Cause Notice has been issued and the case is under adjudication. Shri Jagir Singh was arrested and is being prosecuted.

Under the existing Import Policy, import of fire arms into India except as a gift from close relations covered by a valid Customs Clearance Permit, or as baggage by persons returning from abroad, is already banned. Moreover, any person intending to import a fire arm either as a gift or baggage has also to produce an Arms Licence.

Profitability of Banks

27. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAIN SINHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India report on banking for the year ending June, 1984 has expressed concern at the declining profitability of banks :

(b) whether this decline is also due to high incidence of sickness in industry ;

(c) whether operating costs for Indian banking industry are high as compared to other countries ; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to achieve better profitability for banks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The Reserve Bank of India in its Report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India for the year ending June 1984, has indicated improving profitability as one of the medium term tasks before the Banks.

(b) Advances to sick industrial units have increased over the years. Banks are nursing many of these units to become viable and in the process the package of