

crores given to farmers; and

(b) whether Government are considering to waive loans from nationalised banks to farmers in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Loan from Netherlands

3205. SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Netherlands has agreed to provide loan to India.

(b) if so, the details of the amount of credit with the terms of repayment;

(c) the purpose for which the amount will be utilised; and

(d) the amount of loan to be extended for the development of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Netherlands has agreed to provide financial assistance of Dfl 200 million (approx. Rs. 140 crores) for the year 1989. Out of this, Dfl 99 million is in the form of Grants and the remaining Dfl 101 million in the form of soft loan at a rate of Interest of 2.5% repayable over 30 years with 8 years of grace period. They have also agreed to provide two Less Concessional Loans of around Dfl 83 million at an interest rate of 2.5% repayable over 15 years. These Less Concessional Loans are outside the normal bilateral assistance provided by the Dutch Government.

(c) The Financial assistance will be utilised in the field of Shipping & Transport, Rural Development, Environment & Forests, Water Resources, Women's Develop-

ment, Non-conventional Energy Sources, Agricultural Credit, Import of Fertilizers & Caprolactum etc.

(d) For projects in Andhra Pradesh Netherlands have already agreed to provide financial assistance to Six ongoing Rural Water Supply projects to the tune of around Dfl 97 million (approx. Rs. 67 crores). Out of this for one Water Supply Scheme funds are being reimbursed in proportion to the project expenditure incurred. For the remaining five water supply projects Netherlands has advanced financing of around 12 million (approx. Rs. 7.71 crores) during December 1987. Once these amounts are utilised further amounts would be provided out of the already agreed Dutch assistance referred to above.

Sale of Seized Gold

3206. SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether contraband gold is seized by the Customs Department/Police everyday;

(b) if so, the gold reserves accumulated as a result of seizure of such gold during the last six months;

(c) the reasons for not reducing the price of gold; and

(d) whether Government propose to sell this gold in the market to bring down the prices and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) Contraband gold is seized by the Customs Department.

(b) The ownership of gold upon seizure does not automatically pass on to the Government and therefore seized gold cannot be treated as gold reserves.

(c) Since gold is not a controlled com-