

(c) Stringent action is taken against persons found involved in smuggling activities, both departmentally as well as through prosecution in courts. Apart from confiscation of the gold involved, and imposition of penalties, preventive detention under the COFEPOSA Act is also resorted to in appropriate cases.

Firms/Organisations running illegal Banking Business in Thane District (Maharashtra)

1814. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any complaints had been received by the Reserve Bank of India, Bombay regarding certain firms/organisations running illegal banking business in Thane district of Maharashtra ;

(b) if so, the particulars of the firms/organisations in whose cases the complaints were found to be true after necessary investigation by the Reserve Bank ;

(c) whether necessary action has been taken against such firms/organisations under the rules of the Reserve Bank of India Act ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) (a) to (d) The information is being collected and to the extent available and permissible under the statutes will be laid on the Table of the House.

Imports of Sugar

1815. SHRI MANIK REDDY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the present policies of Government will lead to further imports of sugar costing over Rs. 600 crores in foreign exchange as reported in the 'News Times' of 28 January, 1986 ; and

(b) if so, the corrective steps if any proposed to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI A.K. PANJA) (a) and (b) The decline in sugar production in the last two sugar

seasons was mainly due inter alia, to natural factors such as drought conditions, low recovery in some of the States. To encourage the production of sugarcane and sugar in the country the payment of remunerative cane prices to the growers is being ensured. The imports of sugar have been necessitated to augment the domestic availability of sugar for ensuring adequate supplies at reasonable prices to the consumers. However, the reported further import of sugar costing over Rs. 600 crores in foreign exchange in the coming year is not correct.

Jute Mill at Dalgaoon in Assam

1816. SHRI SAIFUDDIN AHMED : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state the reasons as to why installation of the proposed jute mill at Dalgaoon in Assam has been withheld for the last eleven years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : No application for grant of an industrial licence for setting up of a new jute mill at Dalgaoon in Assam is pending.

Criteria for according Five Star or luxury rating to Public Sector Hotels

1817. SHRI SHIVENDRA BHADUR SINGH : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria being followed for according five-star or luxury rating to hotels in India, details thereof ;

(b) whether the criteria are being applied uniformly for rating public sector hotels under India Tourism Development Corporation and Hotel Corporation of India ;

(c) if not, the reasons thereof ; and

(d) the steps Government contemplate to take to rectify the anomaly and improve the standards in public sector hotels ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) (a) Hotels in India are classified in different star categories including the 5-star category, in accordance with the criteria laid down by