

Printing of Fake Currency Notes/ Court Stamps in Ludhiana

4740. SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a racket involved in printing of fake currency notes and court fee stamps has been busted recently in Ludhiana (Punjab); and

(b) if so, the details thereof and positive steps Government propose to take to stop such happenings in future?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On receipt of some information the Punjab Police conducted raids on various places as a result of which a machine for printing counterfeit currency notes and another for printing court fee stamps were recovered. Some fake currency notes and fake court fee stamps have also been recovered. Ten persons have been arrested in this connection. Further investigation is in progress.

The law provides for deterrent punishment for offences relating to counterfeiting. The State Police authorities keep a constant vigil in this regard and organise raids on information about counterfeiting being done by any person. A 'Cell' has also been created in the Economic Offences Wing of C.B.I. to undertake investigations of serious offences of counterfeiting and co-ordinate the investigations in the States.

Export of Iron Ore

4741. SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE ALLURI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to export Iron ore only after primary

processing and first stage manufacture provide more employment to the weaker sections; and

(b) if so, what are the main features of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b). India has comfortable Iron Ore reserves. We export Iron Ore to earn foreign exchange and to widen our industrial base. Efforts are, however, continuing to process as much quantity of Iron Ore as possible into pellets, concentrates etc., before it is exported.

Public Sector Undertakings in Kerala

4742. SHRI A. A. RAHIM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many Central Public Sector Undertakings are there in Kerala;

(b) how much money has been invested in these Public Sector Undertakings so far; and

(c) what are the new projects that are planned to be set up in the State during the current plan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) Five Central Public Sector Undertakings are located with their headquarters in Kerala. Another 20 enterprises have units/offices functioning in that State.

(b) The total investment in terms of gross block by these undertakings in Kerala as on 31st March 1979 was Rs. 382.74 crores.

(c) The current Plan 1980—85 has not so far been finalised. Therefore, the direction and flow of investment cannot be foreseen at this stage.