

small farmers as on 30th June, 1979 to the respective financial institutions and has made a budget provision of Rs. 49 crores for this purpose. The Government of Kerala announced a decision to waive interest on all loans taken by farmers owning less than 2 hectares prior to 1st April, 1976 and to make good the loss sustained by the credit agencies on this score. The Government of Orissa propose to provide debt relief to farmers in chronically drought affected areas and has sought Central grant of Rs. 22.50 crores for this purpose.

The Central Government is of the view that general or a large scale write-off of loans will have adverse impact on the atmosphere regarding re-payment of loans by farmers to the financing institutions, the health of the financing institutions, and their ability to recycle money lent by them to the farming sector. Mechanisms exist at present for affording relief to farmers affected by natural calamities including drought, such as, conversion of short term loans into medium term loans and even write-off of dues in appropriate cases. These mechanisms should be used to afford relief to farmers keeping in view the measure of distress and their ability to repay their dues. No Central grant can be provided by the Central Government to any State Government for this purpose.

#### Sale of Revolvers imported by STC

2671. SHRI F. H. MOHSIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether revolvers were imported by the State Trading Corporation from West Germany and other countries;

(b) whether some imported revolvers were released to Delhi Rifle Association and other arms dealers;

(c) if so, what were the rates at which they were sold to the Rifle Association and to other Arms dealers;

(d) whether .32 bore revolvers have been requested to be released

by the Rifle Association at the original rates intimated to them by the S.T.C. for issuing them to their members without making profit;

(e) whether it is not a fact that the Rifle Association is a recognized institution recognised by Govt. of India;

(f) what is the difficulty in releasing to them the quantity of revolvers asked for;

(g) whether many representations have been sent to the Ministry of Commerce; and

(h) what is the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). No imported revolvers were allotted/released to "Delhi Rifle Association", as there is no Association with that name registered with STC. However, imported weapons were released to the arms dealers registered with the STC on the basis of price fixed by the Pricing Committee of CCI&E.

(d) to (f). Do not arise.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Does not arise.

#### Smuggling on Indo-Nepal Borders

2672. SHRI JAMILUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether rampant smuggling is going on in between Nepal and India mainly through Jogbani and Galgolia, District Purnea, Bihar; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to check it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA): (a) Reports received by Government do not indicate any large scale smuggling between