

income level of 3000 families identified as the poorest in each block at the rate of 600 per year in the Plan period. Assistance would be based on the availability of potential in the area for undertaking viable economic activities. The provision made by Government for subsidy in all the blocks being of the order of Rs. 1500 crores in the Sixth Plan, institutional finance amounting to Rs. 3000 crores may be needed for the programme during the plan period. As, however, most of the beneficiaries may not have landed assets, financing under this programme will, apart from agriculture and activities allied to it, be available for non-land based activities like village and cottage industries, etc.

Smuggling of drugs to Europe

966. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that the Swedish police have uncovered extensive drug smuggling from India to Europe; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAJ SINGH SISODIA):

(a) and (b). Report received by Government shows that the Swedish police made seizures of 16.573 kilograms of Cannabis Resin and 4.5 grams of raw opium on 21st September, 1981 and 13 kilograms of Cannabis Resin on 28th September, 1981 at Arlanda Airport, Stockholm, Sweden. 11 Indians were arrested in connection with these seizures.

Fixation of Pooled price for Steel items supplied to Small Scale Industries

967. SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering the fixation of a pooled price

for steel items supplied to small scale industries in view of the high prices of imported steel;

(b) whether the closure or sickness of small scale units is not directly attributable to the differential prices; and

(c) if so, the details of the proposals and the methods to remove this difficulty?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) There is no proposal for pooled price system for supplies to small scale industries. Steel imported under the buffer programme is supplied to the allottees at domestic prices irrespective of sectoral affiliations, and that imported with back to back arrangements is supplied on actual cost basis.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Metals, Minerals and other Resources under Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal

968. DR. SUBBRAMANIAM SWAMY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state whether Government have made any study of the availability of metals, minerals and other natural resources under the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE, AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): A beginning has been made in the search for minerals in the off-shore area and for nodules on deep seabed. The Geological Survey of India has acquired a ship, which is being got converted for off-shore survey and exploration of minerals from the seabed within the exclusive economic zone. The Ocean Science and Technology Agency under the Department of Ocean Development, is acquiring an oceanographic research vessel for

research and development of non-living resources including survey and exploration of minerals on the seabed. Geological Survey of India also intends to use that facility. The National Institute of Oceanography has collected some manganese nodules from the Indian Ocean, beyond the exclusive economic zone.

The Geological Survey of India has so far located the occurrences of ilmenite and calcareous sands in the shallow off-shore areas of the Arabian Sea and Phosohate nodules in the off-shore area of the Andaman-Nicobar island, off the Bay of Bengal. The Oil & Natural Gas Commission is engaged in the exploration and exploitation of Hydrocarbons from Seabed area. It is however too premature at this stage to come to any positive conclusions regarding the availability of various metals, minerals and other natural resources under the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal.

Non-Compliance of FERA by Foreign Companies

969. SHRI RAM SWARUP RAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many foreign companies have not complied with the FERA, 1973;

(b) details of such cases; and

(c) what penal action Government have taken or propose to take against such companies?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) to (c) Attention of the Hon'ble Member is invited to the details supplied in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4921 dated 18-9-1981. Statement II attached in reply to the earlier Question supplies the names of all the companies which are yet to comply with the FERA directive and the stage at which the matter stands.

Loss Suffered by Cotton Corporation of India

970. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cotton Corporation of India is in loss since 1977-78; if so, the figures of loss for the last four years;

(b) whether it is a fact that the loss figures for 1979-80 were 'at first' manipulated to show a loss of only Rs. 5.4 crore which during audit were corrected to show a loss of Rs. 13.65 crore;

(c) whether the All India Cotton Corporation Employees Council has levelled serious allegations of corruption, malpractices, nepotism, favouritism and mismanagement; and

(d) if so, has any inquiry been made; if so, the result thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN):

(a) Yes Sir. The Cotton Corporation of India had suffered losses during 1977-78, 1978-79 and 1979-80, but made profit during 1980-81. The figures for the last four years are as given below:—

| | |
|---------|--|
| 1977-78 | Loss Rs. 5.35 crores. |
| 1978-79 | Loss Rs. 6.96 crores. |
| 1979-80 | Loss Rs. 13.65 crores. |
| 1980-81 | Profit Rs. 1.00 crore (Provisional) |

(b) The Annual figures for profit or loss for an Accounting year of the Corporation is arrived at on the basis of the final report of its auditors. For the year 1979-80, the audited loss is reported at Rs. 13.65 crores.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. On receipt of a letter in this regard from the Presi-