

sudden seizure by that foreign power and whether Government regard them as adequate?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b). The question New Moore Island has been under discussion between India and Bangladesh. During Secretary-level talks in January 1982 in New Delhi, the two sides had exchanged additional information for indepth examination on the basis of all relevant facts and principles and agreed to discuss this matter again at an early date.

India continues to exercise effective sovereignty over the Island and we have every reason to be confident that Bangladesh would not seek to alter the existing status by force. The Government, naturally, continue to ensure that India's territorial integrity is not violated.

News item captioned 'forged black bonds flood market'

1468. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) has the attention of Government been drawn to the article entitled "forged black bonds flood market" published in the national weekly 'Current' dated May 15, 1982;

(b) if so, what are the steps Government have taken to investigate the matter; and

(c) the results of the investigations?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Government are aware of the article in question published in the issue of 'Current' dated 15th May, 1982.

(b) and (c). The matter has not been investigated so far, but Government, is looking into the matter.

Income tax Arrears

1469. SHRI P. K. KODIYAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the outstanding amount of income tax arrears as on 31st May, 1982;

(b) the steps taken to intensify collection of arrears;

(c) whether as a result of these steps there has been any improvement in collection of arrears compared to previous years; and

(d) if so, the details of the improvement made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA): (a) The detailed figures of income-tax arrears are compiled at the end of each quarter. The latest figures of 'tax-in-arrears' are available as on 30-9-81. The requisite information in respect of 'tax-in-arrears' and 'demand created but not fallen due' on that date is as under:—

(in crores of rupees)

Tax-in-arrears	761.31	} Provisional
Demand created but not fallen due	428.19	

(b) to (d). The Income-tax Act, 1961 provides for several steps for enforcing collection and recovery of 'tax-in-arrears' such as levy of penalty, attachment of monies due to the defaulters, distraint and sale of movable property, attachment and sale of immovable property, committing the defaulter to civil imprisonment etc. Depending upon the facts and circumstances of each case, suitable steps are taken from time to time by the Income tax authorities concerned for recovery of tax arrears. Several administrative steps have been taken to accelerate the pace of recovery. For the current year a very high priority has been given to the collection and recovery of tax arrears. Targets have been laid down in the Annual Action Plan of the Department for the year 1982-83 and communicated to the Commissioners of Income-tax. The Board, too is keeping a close watch on the reduction of arrears through reports received from Commissioners of Income-tax every month.

The amounts of cash collection/reduction out of arrear demand during the financial