

(a) whether it is a fact that some nationalised Indian banks have been defrauded in U.K. by a firm called Esal Commodities.

(b) if so, extent of involvement of each bank ;

(c) whether it is a fact that Reserve Bank of India held investigations and advised the banks concerned to take action against heads of their respective organisations in London, if so, details thereof ; and

(d) whether it is a fact that Punjab National Bank has not followed Reserve Bank of India's advice and has only recalled one of its managers from London and taken no action against their General Manager, if so, reasons thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d) In accordance with provisions of the statutes governing nationalised banks and in accordance with the practices and usages customary among bankers, the information relating to or the affairs of a constituent cannot be divulged. It may, however, be stated that the Reserve Bank of India is seized of the matter. Suitable action based on RBI's findings would be taken.

Awarding of Conservancy Services Contracts under the Sub-Area Headquarters Delhi Cantt.

10025. SHRI R.N. RAKESH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for awarding the conservancy contracts of the Air Force Stations, Hindon, Ghaziabad from April, 1984 on the rates prevailing last year and whether the firms to which the contracts have been given are registered ones and the reasons why contracts were not given to the firm with lowest quotations ;

(b) the number of years for which the present contractors of conservancy services in the Lal Quila, Anand Parbat, Gurgaon etc. under the Sub-Area Headquarters, Delhi Cantt have been working there indicating the rates on which working.

(c) whether there is a monopoly of only

one contractor of the above places, and if so, the reasons therefore and whether tenders were invited for the current year, and if not, the reasons therefor ; and

(d) the rates of conservancy services for Lal Quila, Anand Parbat and Delhi Cantt, respectively ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) Board proceedings for awarding the contracts for external conservancy services at Air Force Station, Hindon, Ghaziabad, have not yet been finalised. As an interim measure with a view not to disrupt the conservancy services, the present contractor has been permitted to continue providing the services at the existing rates till new contracts are awarded.

(b) and (d) The present contractors of conservancy services at Lal Quila, Anand Parbat, and Shakurbasti have been employed with effect from 1.4.1983 @ Rs. 9.50 per sweeper per day and military area, Gurgaon @ Rs. 10.00 per sweeper per day.

(c) No, Sir. Tenders for conservancy services for the current year at Lal Quila, Anand Parbat, Gurgaon and Shakurbasti were invited as per the laid down procedure and advertisement to this effect was published in Hindustan Times dated 14-12-1983. Conservancy staff are employed in Delhi Cantonment and hence no contract is made for conservancy services.

Expenditure Incurred by Cotton Corporation of India on Seed Crushing Programme

10026. SHRI R.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cotton Corporation of India incurred a good amount on its seed crushing programme ;

(b) if so, who prepared the project and gave the work of Rs. 6 crores to M/s. Capol at Chirala ;

(c) the total loss on this venture and who is responsible for this ; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that the Cotton Corporation of India went for seed-crushing without any etc. experience and consequently this loss ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) to (c) The Cotton Corporation of India as an alternative source for disposal of cotton seed and for gaining experience in the new line of activities, undertook crushing programme from 1979-80 to 1982-83 seasons. The feasibility report was prepared by the Oil Technologist of the Corporation. On the technical advice of the Cotton Seed Crushing Advisory Committee and with the approval of Board of Directors of the Corporation the work of cotton crushing was entrusted to M/s. Capol, Chirala. The total loss on the crushing operations in Andhra Pradesh amounted to Rs. 95.13 lakhs.

(d) Before undertaking cotton seed crushing operations in Andhra Pradesh the Corporation had undertaken such activities on experimental basis in the year 1979-80 and 1980-81 in Punjab and Haryana also.

News Item "Inquiry into Granting of Bank Loans Urged"

10027. SHRI PIYUSH TIRKI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn towards the news-item published in the 'Statesman' dated 23 February, 1984, captioned "Inquiry into granting of bank loans urged" ;

(b) if so, the details of misappropriating of amount by certain nationalised banks in Pune District of Maharashtra ;

(c) details of the actions taken by Government to check such malpractices ;

(d) whether such complaints have been also received from other parts of the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) Reserve Bank of India has been asked to enquire into the complaint contained in the newspaper report under reference.

(c) to (e) Whenever any specific complaint is received by the Government, it is looked into with a view to taking suitable corrective action.

Financial Foreign Assistance for Development of Jammu and Kashmir

10028. SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statement of Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister appeared in 'Nawal-Subha' official organ of National Conference dated 13 May 1983 wherein he has said that for the development of Jammu and Kashmir, he will seek financial aid from foreign countries directly ; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Memorandum from All India Tyre Dealers Federation

10029. SHRI R. P. DAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received a memorandum dated 1st March, 1984 from All India Tyre Dealers' Federation ;

(b) if so, their grievance and demand ; and

(c) whether Government are reconsidering its decision to withdraw the excise duty concession of tyre/tubes in view of the Industry Ministry's directives to Tyre Industry to withdraw the price hike ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Federation had represented against the withdrawal of the excise duty concession announced in respect of truck/bus tyres w.e.f. 1st October, 1983 and had requested for continuation of the same. The Federation had also suggested the levying of specific rates of duty on 'weight basis'.