

(c) and (d) Steps are being taken to improve the quality of HPS groundnut for making it more acceptable in foreign markets, and to increase the foreign exchange earnings by encouraging value-added exports such as roasted and salted groundnuts in consumer packs.

**Money Spent by banks on litigation  
for recovery of loans to  
Agro Entrepreneurs**

1827. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of agro entrepreneurs who have been financed by the nationalised banks for the Centrally sponsored scheme of Agro Service Centres-cum-Custom Service Units, Year-wise for the last three years;

(b) the total number of agro entrepreneurs against whom court cases were instituted for recovery of bank loans;

(c) the number of agro entrepreneurs against whom court decrees have been obtained but not executed and the period for execution has been pending and reasons therefor; and

(d) the total money spent by banks on litigation for recovery of loans to agro entrepreneurs, including fees paid to lawyers, TA/DA and salary paid to staff engaged in litigation work, and all other expenses ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d) The present data collection system for banks does not yield information in the manner desired. It is felt that the time and effort required to collect this information from branches of all the nationalised banks may not commensurate with the purpose likely to be achieved. The available information about the progress of establishment of Agro Service Centres is as follows :

Period ending	No. entertained till date	No. set up till date	No. closed down	No. in operation
March 77	4451	2704	NA	NA
„ 78	4822	2893	NA	NA
„ 79	5086	3036	NA	NA
„ 80	5205	3164	270	2295
„ 81	5534	3206	508	2698

NA—Not available.

**News-Item captioned “Dry fruit trade  
cover for Exchange Racket”**

1828. SHRI DIGAMBER SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned “Dry fruit trade cover for exchange racket” appeared in the ‘Hindustan Times’, New Delhi on July 5, 1984;

(b) if so, whether any further investigations have been made into this racket particularly when there is an almost cent percent margin of profit in the dry fruit trade;

(c) whether some of these business establishments have close links in Kabul having their business establishments there and from there they operate this racket through some foreign countries without any check;

(d) which of these persons or other business partners had or still have Afghan nationality; and

(e) whether he will identify these racketeers and state the action taken to prevent such malpractices ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) to (e) In the groups of cases referred to in the News item, 15 persons have so far been arrested under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 and released on bail. Five of the arrested persons and another concerned person have also since been detained under the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974. The names of the persons arrested and detained are as follows :

*Persons arrested*

1. Shri Jawahar Lal
2. Shri Gobind Ram
3. Shri Thakar Das Bhatia
4. Shri Nand Lal Bhatia
5. Shri Manohar Lal Bhatia
6. Shri Surinder Nath
7. Shri Syam Sunder Arora
8. Shri Ghansham Kakkar
9. Shri Satish Kumar Gupta
10. Shri Subhash Chander Kapoor
11. Shri Narinder Kumar
12. Shri Roshan Lal
13. Shri Vasdev
14. Shri Ajay Kumar Bhatia
15. Shri Madan Lal Sachdeva

*Persons detained*

1. Shri Jawahar Lal
2. Shri Gobind Ram

3. Shri Thakar Das Bhatia and Thakar Das Dalal

4. Shri Yesh Pal Bhatia

5. Shri Nand Lal Bhatia

6. Shri Manohar Lal Bhatia

None of these persons is an Afghan national.

As the investigations are still in progress, in the interest of effective investigations, it is not expedient to disclose further details at this stage.

**Amount of Bank and Financial Institutions Loan locked up in Closed Refractory and Fire Bricks Factories in Dhanbad**

1829. SHRI A.K. ROY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of bank loan and loan from other financial institutions locked up in various closed refractory and fire bricks factories in Dhanbad District of Bihar, facts in details giving the amount of loan and the names of the factories ;

(b) the steps taken to recover the loans from such closed factories ; and

(c) whether financial institutions have probed into the causes of the closure, if so, the steps taken thereon ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c) In terms of the provisions of the public Financial Institutions (obligation as to Fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983 and in conformity with the provisions of the statutes governing the public sector banks and institutions, information relating to individual constituents of public financial institutions and public sector banks cannot be divulged and hence the unit-wise details asked in the question cannot be disclosed. However, details relating to total amount of loans from banks and financial institu-