

tion. Dissatisfaction was, however, expressed by some agents over one or the other of the terms and conditions of the competition. Complete information in this regard is not readily available, but can be collected and furnished if the names of the offices of the Corporation about which the Hon'ble Member has heard complaints are given.

**Counterfeit Notes of Two Rupees
Denomination**

2744. SHRI K. M. MADHUKAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the reported conspiracy of inter State counterfeiters to print and circulate counterfeit notes of two rupees denomination in Bangalore and elsewhere;

(b) whether a complete set of six blocks used for printing two rupees currency notes, a blown up photo of the two rupees note and a number of currency notes cut and the uncut were seized recently;

(c) if so, the facts of the case; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) : (a) to (d). Information is being collected from the Government of Mysore and adjoining States and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as received.

**High Prices of drugs manufactured in
U. S. A. charged by International
Development Mission Agency
of U. S. A.**

2745. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether International Development Mission Agency of U. S. A. in India has been charging high prices for drugs manufactured in U. S. A.;

(b) if so, the extent thereof and reasons therefor; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) to (c). Presumably, the reference is to U. S. Agency for International Development and not International Development Agency. Procurement of drugs manufactured in U. S. A. was done under direct arrangements with suppliers using A. I. D. financing for the purpose. The question of A. I. D. charging high prices for the drugs so procured does not, therefore, arise.

Under the procedures which were invogue prior to 1971, certain purchases were reportedly made on the basis of "Sole source" procurement and this might have led to higher prices being charged than in the case of competitive procurement. Complete reliable information in regard to the extent of such procurement at high prices, if any, is not available. The mechanics relating to these purchases have since been improved to ensure that all such purchases take place on a competitive basis.

**Meeting of the Custodians of Nationalised
Banks**

2746. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a meeting of the Custodians of Nationalised Banks was held on the 4th November, 1971 in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether the Custodians have suggested the need for greater co-ordination among the public sector banks, small farmers development agencies and marginal farmers and agricultural labourers' projects; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) I stressed in the meeting for closer contact between local banks agents and the Agency functionaries. The Government is keen on co-ordinated working for achieving optimum results.