

(c) the status of the new Company Law Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE & COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) The Company Law Board has been constituted by the Central Government with effect from 31-5-1991.

(b) An independent Company Law Board was constituted on the recommendations of High-power Committee (Sachar Committee) to provide an in-built system to combine application of judicial mind with speed and administrative efficiency.

(c) The Board is an independent authority to exercise judicial and quasi-judicial functions conferred on it by the Companies Act, 1956 and its orders are appealable to High Court on questions of law.

Seizure of gold at Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi

4230. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether gold worth Rs. 40 lakh was found on a plane and seized by customs authorities recently at the Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi as reported in the "Times of India" dated June 28, 1991;

(b) if so, the details of the seizure made; and

(c) further action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) :

(a) to (c) On 26-6-1991, the Customs Officers of Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi rummaged an aircraft of Air India which had arrived from Tokyo via Bangkok and recovered and seized contraband gold of foreign origin weighing 10·850 kgs. worth Rs. 41·12 lakhs approximately. The seized gold was concealed in a wall panel of the aircraft. A show cause notice has since been issued.

[Translation]

Loans given by Banks in Uttar Pradesh

4231. SHRI KESRI LAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have issued directives to the nationalised banks to sanction loans to the rural artisans, agricultural workers and small farmers:

(b) if so, the amount of loans sanctioned to them in Uttar Pradesh during the current year, district-wise;

(c) the percentage of loan sanctioned this year vis-a-vis the loan sanctioned during the last three years;

(d) whether the nationalised banks have achieved the target fixed for sanctioning such loans;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?