

consequential steps for setting up of the IDFC are being taken. Details of guidelines for investment etc. will be formulated by the IDFC after it has been set up and operationalised.

- (d) No. Sir.
(e) and (f). Do not arise.

Revival of Scooter India Ltd.

4277. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE :
SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Scooter India Ltd. a Public Sector unit has fallen sick;
(b) if so, the reasons therefor;
(c) whether the Government have a proposal to revive sick unit; and
(d) if so, the details thereof and the amount likely to be spent on the rehabilitation of that unit?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Scooters India Limited was referred to BIFR in 1992. The main reasons for its sickness are :

- (i) Lack of upgradation of technology in terms of design, process and manufacturing which could meet the changing needs of customers.
- (ii) Very high interest bearing liabilities on account of the past operating losses.
- (iii) Excess manpower incommensurate with production levels.
- (iv) Consumer preference for other makes of Scooters.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. Government has decided to revive Scooters India Limited in the present set up as per the revival scheme sanctioned by BIFR with necessary cash infusion amounting to Rs. 22.45 crores and other reliefs and concessions.

[Translation]

Import of Maize

4278. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether any agreement has been signed with USA for import of maize;
(b) if so, the terms and conditions set for it; and
(c) the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of maize growers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) No. Sir.

- (b) and (c). Do not arise.

[English]

High Court Bench at Goa

4279. SHRI CHURCHILL ALEMAO : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any request for the setting up of an independent High Court in the State of Goa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (c). The Government of Goa have proposed that the State of Goa should have an independent High Court. The matter is under consideration.

[Translation]

Patent Issue

4280. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission has since submitted the report on Patent Issue;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of suggestions received in this regard;

(d) whether some suggestions or memoranda from the Members of Parliament and other social organisations have been received in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (e). The Government has not asked the Planning Commission to submit any report on the Patent Issue. It has, however, received suggestions/memoranda relating to amendment to the Patents Act, 1970 in the context of the TRIPs Agreement which is a part of the WTO Agreement.

Government is holding consultations in order to work out appropriate measures in this regard.

[English]

Interest on Bank Deposits

4281. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the revision of interest rates on bank deposits has adversely affected the national saving scheme;