

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) Foreign Direct Investments in Indian Companies is made either by offer of new shares or by sale of existing shares with the approval of the Board of the company. All such investments are considered for approval under the guidelines for foreign direct investments by Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) or Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as the case may be.

(c) and (d) The acquisition of existing shares of an Indian company by any other company is governed by Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers), Regulations 1997.

(e) to (g) The activities of non banking financial companies are regulated under the Reserve Bank of India (Amendment) Act, 1997. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have issued detailed guidelines on January 2, 1998 subsequently revised on January 31, 1998 regarding norms of deposit acceptance, prudential norms etc. for various categories of Non Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs).

[English]

Seizure of Gold

3586. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether gold worth Rs. 3.68 crore was clandestinely removed from an import shed at Air Cargo complex at Indira Gandhi International Airport recently;

(b) if so, whether the Government had inquired into the matter; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (c) There are no reports of any recent clandestine removal of gold from an Import Shed at Air Cargo Complex at IGI Airport, New Delhi. Perhaps the Hon'ble Member has in view the case where recently a seizure of gold and certain other articles worth Rs. 3.68 crores was effected by Customs at Air Cargo Complex, Delhi. The facts of the case are that acting on a specific information, that certain consignments containing huge amounts of contraband items from a particular consigner in Hong Kong were to arrive by a United Airlines Flight and which were likely to be removed from the Import Shed of Air Cargo Complex, IGI Airport clandestinely, without filing of documents, the officers of Headquarters Preventive Unit of Commissionerates of Customs at IGI Airport, New Delhi, kept a surveillance. They were able to trace out two such

consignments. The officers examined the said two consignments, which had arrived from Hong Kong by United Airlines Flight No. UA-001. vide Airway Bills No. 0165775 2973 and 016 5775 2962 on the night of 17.6.1998. The goods covered by the said Airway Bills were declared to be Automobile car parts and Metal fittings. However, the examination of these consignments resulted in the recovery of 600 gold biscuits of 10 Tolas each valued at Rs. 2.95 crores, and other misc. goods i.e. LCD Display modules, watch parts, calculators and computer parts, valued at Rs. 73.14 lakhs, collectively valued at Rs. 3.68 crores. All those goods were seized for misdeclaration and contravention of the provisions of the Customs Act, 1962. The two consignments were booked in the name of M/s Marita Enterprises, 12-C, Sri Nagar, Shakur Basti, Delhi and M/s S.N. Impex, 308-c/55, Suneja Towers, Janakpuri, New Delhi respectively. The address of the consignee mentioned in the first Airway Bill, was found to be nonexistent, whereas the address in respect of the second Airway Bill was found to be fictitious. However, the first consignee's actual address was ascertained and the premises were searched, which resulted in recovery of a rubber stamp and a tin sign board of the consignee i.e. M/s Marita Enterprises. The occupant of the premises Shri Brij Mohan Behl was interrogated and subsequently placed under arrest. Further investigations are in the progress. Appropriate action for adjudication of seized goods/prosecution against the concerned persons etc. will be taken after completion of investigations.

Indo-China Cooperation in Coal Sector

3587. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and China have decided to cooperate in coal sector;

(b) if so, whether any agreement between the two countries have been signed;

(c) if so, the details of the agreement; and

(d) the extent to which China will help in the coal sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Coal India Limited (CIL) has signed four separate contracts in respect of four mines viz. Balrampur, Rajendra, New Kumda and Churcha West with China National Coal Mining Engineering Equipment Group Corporation, China in September, 1995. The provisions of the contracts provide for supply of powered support longwall equipment, expert services for installation, commissioning and operation of the equipment for a specified period of 150 continuous working