

*[English]***Foreign Currency Seized by Bombay Customs**

5529. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some employees of Air India were arrested by the customs officers in Mumbai after a large amount of foreign currency was seized from their residence; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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) Yes, an employee working in the Operations Department of Air India, Mumbai, was arrested in May 98 alongwith one of his accomplice, after seizure of foreign currency from his residence.

(b) The details of the above case are that based on an information, the residential premises of Shri Ajay Gurudasmal Rohra, working as Executive Secretary in the Operations Department of Air India, Mumbai, situated at Santa Cruz (East) were searched on 8.5.98 by officers of Customs Preventive Mumbai, which resulted in the recovery and seizure of assorted foreign currencies equivalent to Rs. 58.07 lakhs. Shri Ajay Gurudasmal Rohra was arrested on 9.5.98. Further investigations led to the arrest of one of his accomplice—one Shri Manoj Khatwani of Malad(Mumbai) on 4.6.98, for his involvement in the said case. Both of them were subsequently released on bail by the Mumbai High Court. Further investigations are in progress.

*[Translation]***Employment of Child Labour in Carpet Industry**

5530. SHRI C.D. GAMIT : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether several European countries have imposed a ban on the import of Indian Carpets on the issue of child labour causing adverse effect on the export of Indian Carpets;

(b) whether efforts have been made by the Government to liberate the child labourers involved in carpet trade and to rehabilitate them; and

(c) if so, the details of the progress made in these efforts, State-wise particularly in Gujarat?

MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) There is no information with the Government of a ban by any European country on the import of Indian Carpets on the issue of Child Labour.

(b) and (c) A major programme was launched by the Government in August, 1994 for the rehabilitation of children working in hazardous occupations, including carpet industry. So far 76 National Child Labour Projects have been sanctioned, including two projects for the districts of Surat and Panchmahals in the State of Gujarat, for the rehabilitation of 1.5 lakh

children. As per the available information, 1.05 lakh children have already been enrolled under this project. A major activity undertaken in the Child Labour Project is the setting up of special schools with provision for non-formal education, vocational training, nutrition, stipend, etc. Children withdrawn from hazardous occupations including carpet industry, are put in these special schools for their rehabilitation. The Supreme Court has also given a number of directions in the judgement dated 10.12.96 for the rehabilitation of children withdrawn from hazardous occupations, including carpet. Most of the child labour endemic States have already taken steps as per the directions of the Supreme Court.

The Carpet Export Promotion Council has also set up 24 schools in eastern part of Uttar Pradesh for the children weaned away from the carpet industry to provide them non-formal education and mid-day meal facility.

*[English]***Changes in Housing Laws**

5531. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to amend the housing loan laws to enhance powers of financial institutions to mortgage in case of default by the loan takers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the legislation in this regard is likely to be introduced?

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) National Housing Bank (NHB) in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is preparing draft proposals for amending certain provisions of the National Housing Bank Act, 1987 with a view inter-alia to enable housing finance institutions to recover their dues speedily from the defaulting borrowers.

It is not feasible at present to indicate a time frame within which the legislation in this regard would be introduced.

*[Translation]***Cheating of Investors in Capital Market**

5532. SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY :

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:

SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JAHANABAD) :

SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: