

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK): (a) No, Sir.

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

News item "Smuggling on the Rise"

*995. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to various anti-smuggling organisations operating in the country, it has been revealed that smuggling activities have increased considerably since the past one decade as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 28 and 29 April, 1990;

(b) if so, whether the report prepared by the Intelligence Wing in September, 1989 in collaboration with anti-smuggling organisation has since been examined; and

(c) if so, the details of the report and the further steps contemplated by Government to make anti-smuggling organisations more effective?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) It is not possible to estimate whether smuggling activities have increased during the past decade and if so to what extent. The value of seizures effected by the Customs authorities over the past few years as given in the table show an increasing trend. This need not necessarily indicate a spurt in smuggling but could be due to intensified anti-smuggling efforts.

TABLE

<i>Year</i>	<i>Value of seizures (Rs. in crores)</i>
1985	195.63

<i>Year</i>	<i>Value of seizures (Rs. in crores)</i>
1986	217.52
1987	251.47
1988	443.14
1989	554.59
1990 (upto April)	223.38 (Provisional)

(b) No such report has been prepared by any of the intelligence agencies under this Ministry.

(c) Does not arise.

Writing off Loans of Farmers, Artisans and Weavers

*996. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated the detailed scheme of debt relief to farmers, artisans and weavers who had taken loans upto Rs.10,000 from various banks, in consultation with the RBI and the NABARD;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay and the time by which the scheme is likely to be formulated?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (c). The Government of India had announced its decision for providing debt relief for farmers, artisans and weavers who had taken loans upto Rs. 10,000/- from public sector banks, regional rural banks and cooperative banks. The Government has formulated the Agri-

cultural and Rural Debt Relief Scheme, 1990. The salient features of the Scheme are given in the attached statement.

STATEMENT

(i) *Salient features of Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief Scheme, 1990 of the Central Government*

- (1) Relief will cover all short-term and term overdues advanced by public sector banks, regional rural banks, co-operatives including and development banks, as on 2nd October, 1989.
- (2) Relief will be available to the borrowers whose principal amount from one or more banks, regional rural banks or cooperatives does not exceed Rs. 10,000/-.
- (3) The waiver of the principal and interest amounts will be allowed upto a limit of Rs. 10,000/-.
- (4) The benefit of debt relief will be available to the following categories of borrowers;
 - (a) Non-wilful defaulter farmer who is determined by the Annewari System applied on the village basis.
 - (b) Non-wilful defaulter, artisans/wheavers who committed default in repayment of his loan due to adverse circumstances.
 - (c) Defaulter farmers, artisans and weavers with 'Chronicoverdues', i.e. overdues which have remained unpaid for more than 3 years from the cut off date i.e. 1.10.1989.

(d) The surviving family of the deceased borrower on whom the loan liability has devolved.

(e) The farmer who had filed insolvency petitions or who had already been declared insolvent and fulfills the conditions mentioned above.

(5) Identification of borrowers and determination of eligible loans will be done by the Manager of each branch of the public sector bank or regional rural bank. He will also have the authority to sanction the relief to the borrower so identified and determined, under the Scheme.

(6) The manager of the lead bank in each of the block will act as a coordinator for the implementation of the scheme and will convene meetings of the managers of concerned branches of public sector banks, regional rural banks, central cooperative banks, land development banks and block development officers/tehsildar to determine the total principal amount of loan taken by each borrower and to verify other conditions relevant to the scheme.

(7) Borrowers will be advised in writing by the Manager of the branch about the extent of relief provided, and closure of the account if it is fully settled and the reply the balance amount wherever applicable.

Women Employees in MEL, Chandrapur

*997. SHRI S.B. THORAT: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of