

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing incidents of drug trafficking in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the effective steps being taken to check this tendency?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b). Information available with the Narcotics Control Bureau relating to the quantities of various drugs seized in Bihar do not indicate any increase in incidence of drug trafficking in that State. However, in view of its proximity to Nepal, Bihar is vulnerable to trafficking of drugs, particularly, hashish and ganja. Our enforcement agencies remain alert to prevent drug trafficking. A zonal office of the Narcotics Control Bureau has also been set up at Varanasi, covering Bihar among other States, to monitor the drug trafficking situation in the area and to coordinate with the concerned State enforcement agencies for appropriate action.

[English]

Task Force for Distribution of Iron and Steel

10519. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the task-force appointed by Government to review the guidelines and suggest modifications for distribution of iron and steel has submitted its report;

(b) if so, what are its recommendations; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to implement these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) to (c). The

Task Force in its report submitted to Government sought to address certain important issues such as priority classification, compact group, basis for fixation of entitlement, mode of supplies to the small scale sector, new and sick units etc., and has given recommendations on some of them. The Report is under examination.

Guidelines for Merchant Bankers

10520. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Securities and Exchange Board of India has recently issued guidelines for the merchant bankers;

(b) if so, the details of the guidelines;

(c) whether the small merchant bankers have expressed their resentment over the stipulations envisaged in the guidelines;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps contemplated to allay the fears of the small merchant bankers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIANIL SHASTRI): (a) The Government have issued the guidelines for merchant bankers on 9th April, 1990.

(b) A copy of the guidelines is given below.

(c) The guidelines have, by and large been well received. It is possible that some merchant bankers may have reservations about some aspects of the guidelines which would regulate their activities. However, SEBI have reported that so far no small merchant banker has expressed specially in writing or verbally any resentment to them over the stipulation envisaged in the guidelines.