

(including Government employees) who give reliable information about the tax evasion just as Government have decided to give 20 per cent of the total value of the goods seized from the smugglers in the case of smuggling to such informers; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). Informers and Government employees are eligible for rewards up to 20% of the excise duty or customs duty sought to be evaded plus 20% of the fine and penalty levied/imposed and realised, provided the amount does not exceed 20% of the market value of the goods involved.

Grant of rewards to informants who furnish specific information in income-tax, wealth tax and estate duty cases, which result in the assessment and collection of taxes on concealed income, wealth or estate is regulated from time to time. No reward is granted to a Government employee who furnishes information or evidence obtained by him in the course of his normal duty as a Government employee.

Closure of Diamond Mines in Panna District (Madhya Pradesh)

*424. SHRI DALCHANDER JAIN : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for closing diamond mines in Panna District in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to solve the livelihood problem of the labourers of these mines rendered jobless ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) Of the two diamond mines developed by the National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) in Majhgawan and Ramkheria in Panna District (Madhya Pradesh) in 1967, the mine at Ramkheria was closed in 1979 on account of its uneconomic production, low yields and the exhaustion of reserves.

(b) There was no retrenchment consequent to the closure of Ramkheria mine. Those who did not opt for the Voluntary

Retirement Scheme introduced by the Corporation were absorbed at the Majhgawan mine.

[English]

Suggestions by Agricultural Association Regarding Larger Allocations for Agricultural Research

2755. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some representatives of Agricultural Association have urged his Ministry to provide for larger allocations for agricultural research especially in the field of pulses and cereals;

(b) if so, the details regarding the suggestions that have been made by the representatives of the Association; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). In the informal pre-budget meeting of the Finance Minister with Agriculturists on 11th February, 1985, there were some general observations about the need to provide more funds for agricultural development, including research. The suggestions are of a general nature and are kept in view in the formulation of Government policies from time to time.

Representation against appearance of religious materials mixed up with imported waste paper at Calcutta Port

2756. SHRI BHOLA NATH SEN : Will the minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether members of Muslim community residing in Calcutta Port area have made any representation protesting against the frequent appearance of religious materials including pages from the Quran mixed up in the bales of waste paper imported at Calcutta Port from Singapore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken/proposed against the importers;

(d) whether all religious materials were