

us have done who live in Delhi, that there is a standing monument here to our lip-service to anti-pollution, and that is the Headquarters of the World Health Organisation. Its building is situated just next to the Indraprastha Thermal Power Station which is throwing out so much pollution everyday. So, it looks very odd in the capital city. Either something should be done to check this pollution from the power station or the WHO may be persuaded to shift their office from there. It looks very bad standing next to Indraprastha Thermal Power Station.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Then the situation would deteriorate further.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Please do something about it. Photographs of the Indraprastha Power Station situated just next to the WHO Headquarters and causing pollution are being released in the international press.

[*English*]

SHRI Z.R. ANSARI: Sir, as far as the air pollution caused by this thermal power station is concerned, an action has been taken. Actually, the Pollution Control Board had gone a long way to prosecute DESU for creating this pollution. We have taken up the matter with all the thermal power stations and they have given an assurance and have fixed a time-bound programme that by that time they will instal pollution control devices.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: By which time?

SHRI Z.R. ANSARI: Sir, I do not have the details of the time, but since the hon. Member is so much interested, I will certainly give the time-bound programme which has been given by them. Some of them have placed orders, some of them have fixed the deadline that by that time it will be completely installed.

PROF. N.G. RANGA: We all support Mr. Indrajit Gupta.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Sir, I would like to know whether the Government is prescribing any standard technological devices or machinery which compulsorily each industry must have for the purpose of preventing air pollution. Are you having any technological research cell with the Department to advise the industries as to what methods they have to devise and adopt for the purpose of preventing pollution?

SHRI Z.R. ANSARI: The Ministry is prescribing standards of the air quality and water quality. As far as the devices are concerned, it is being left to the will of the industries themselves. In what we are interested is that the omission which comes out from that industry should have this standard and not beyond that. If we just prescribe certain devices, certain burden may be on us.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

National Housing Bank

*840. SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK:
SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN
SINHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposed National Housing Bank will have to borrow heavily from the capital market to raise fund;

(b) if so, whether the Bank will give loans at comparatively higher rates;

(c) the impact of higher rates on low income and economically weaker sections of society;

(d) whether Government propose to subsidise the Bank's rate of interest; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) (a) to (e). It is proposed to set up a National Housing Bank (NHB) with an equity contribution of Rs. 100 crores by the Reserve Bank of India. A suitable legislation, in this regard, will be brought before Parliament shortly. The NHB would extend refinance facility to housing finance institutions which, in turn, would provide loans to ultimate borrowers. The amount and sources of borrowings, the interest rate structure and other operational details will be worked out by NHB in consultation with Reserve Bank of India and Government as necessary, after it is set up. There is no proposal for the present for giving any interest subsidy by the Government to NHB.

Bank Computerisation

*841. SHRI A.J.V.B. MAHESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are monitoring the computerisation scheme in the banking institutions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) and (b). Computerisation and mechanisation in the banks is monitored by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on a continual basis through meetings and periodical returns obtained from banks. The progress is also reviewed by Government from time to time.

Seizure of Gold Bars by Bombay Customs

*842. SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY:
SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH
MALIK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:-

(a) whether Bombay Customs recently

seized gold bars concealed in the rope supporting the pulley of a mechanised countrycraft from Dubai as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 4 April, 1987;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantity and value of gold seized;

(d) whether any arrest has been made; and

(e) action taken against the persons responsible for smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (e). The facts of the case referred to in the news-item are as given below:-

On 2nd April, 1987 in pursuance of an information, the Officers of Customs (Preventive) Collectorate, Bombay intercepted one country craft M.S.V. "AL-BUKHARI" on its arrival from Dubai with a consignment of wet dates, Asafoetida and Almonds. On rummaging the craft, 85 gold bars of 10 tolas each, 2 cut pieces of gold bars and 9 pendants of assorted weight, collectively weighing about 10 Kgs. valued at Rs. 25.92 lakhs were recovered and seized under the Customs Act. The gold was found ingeniously concealed in a rope supporting the front side of a pulley near top of the mast of the craft. The craft has also been seized. In this connection, tinsel and sarang of the craft have been arrested.

Foreign Exchange to Tourists Visiting Neighbouring Countries

*843. SHRI Y.S. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians visiting abroad for short periods who availed of Foreign Travel Scheme during 1986 and the total amount of foreign exchange involved on this account;

(b) the number of Indians among them who visited the neighbouring countries like Bangladesh, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka and Burma; and