

Collection through Special Bearer Bonds

*776. PROF. MADHU DANDA-VATE:
SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the target for the amount to be raised through the Special Bearer Bonds in the year 1980-81 was Rs. 200 crores;

(b) if so, what is the actual amount raised so far; and

(c) if the collections are below the target, what are the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA): (a) The revised estimates for 1980-81 take credit for Rs. 200 crores from the sale of Special Bearer Bonds.

(b) Bonds worth Rs. 106.00 crores (Provisional figures) have been sold till 8th April, 1981.

(c) There is no target as such. Collections under the scheme are generally expected to gather momentum and reach their peak only towards the closing stages of the scheme. This was our experience under the Voluntary Disclosure Scheme. The pendency of writ petitions in the Supreme Court may also have retarded the sales of the bonds.

Incentives to Non-Resident account holders to invest in National savings Scheme

*777. SHRI AMRIT PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to give incentives to the non-resident account holders to invest their savings in National Savings Scheme;

(b) whether Government have received any request from Gujarat Government in this regard to extend the facility of income-tax free interest to Petro-dollar investments under the foreign currency (non-resident) account and non-resident (external) accounts to finance the gigantic Narmada Project; and

(c) if so steps taken by Government in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN):

(a) A proposal was made by the Government of Gujarat in November, 1980 for giving the facility of income-tax-free interest on the investments made by non-resident account holders in National Savings Schemes. This proposal was examined by Government and not found acceptable. In a letter received just a few days back, the Government of Gujarat have requested reconsideration of their proposal. This will be done in due course.

(b) No request of this nature seeking exemption from income-tax for such investment by non-residents has been received.

(c) Does not arise.

News-item captioned 'Racket in Exporting skins'

*778. SHRI HARINATH MISRA:
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item under the caption 'Racket in exporting animal skins', as published in the Times of India, dated 12th March 1981.

(b) whether in 1978, West Germany recorded the import of 10,053 skins of tiger cats from India;

(c) whether it is a fact that India did not record the export;

(d) whether it is also a fact that India, on the other hand, reported export of 597 live rhesus monkeys to

U. S. A., but the U. S. figures on wild life trade make no mention of this and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c): According to a report circulated by the Secretariat of the Convention on international trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, Gland Switzerland for the year 1978, 10,053 skins of 'Felis Tigrina' are shown to be imported to Federal Republic of Germany from India. However, this particular species is not found in India.

(d) and (e): Figures of export of rhesus monkeys are not separately maintained. The total number of monkeys exported to USA during 1978 was 2570 valued at Rs. 8.55 lakhs. Export of rhesus monkeys is completely banned now.

Raids at residences of South Indian Film artistes, producers and Directors

*780. SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government conducted recently any raids at the residences of South Indian film artistes, producers and directors; and

(b) if so, the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA): (a) Yes, Sir, During the period 1-12-1980 to 31-3-1981, the Intelligence Wing of the Income-tax Department at Madras conducted searches in the cases of three Cine Artistes and one film producer.

(b) Examination of seized documents from the above persons *prima facie* indicate tax evasion by them.

The cases are still under investigation and the extent of concealment will be known after the assessments become final.

Import of cashewnut

*781. SHRI K. KUNHAMBUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala Government has sought Centre's permission to import Cashewnut from abroad; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Centre thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government could accede to the request for import without any conditions.

Performance of public sector undertakings in key sector

*782. SHRI K. A. RAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1608 on the 28th November, 1980 regarding steps to improve performance of Public Sector Units in Key Sector and state:

(a) what further steps have been taken to improve the performance of Public Sector Undertakings in Key Sector. and

(b) whether the Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Member (Industry) Planning Commission has submitted its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA): (a) Government have taken several measures to improve the performance of Public Sector Units in key Sector. Among these steps, specific mention may be made of the following:

(i) A Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure has been set up and