

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, I have already answered this question by implication. We have taken steps to update and upgrade our air defence to match any threat, I repeat it again, any threat that may arise from any of our neighbours. We are taking all the steps. Unfortunately I cannot give these details but I can assure you that we are taking all these steps.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, he has not answered whether USA is going to supply that defence weapon... (Interruption).

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: We have no information.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY: Sir, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether his attention has been drawn to the Press report that the United States of America is going to supply Harpoon Missiles to Pakistan? If so, what is the reaction of the Government to that Press report and if that report is true, what measure the Government of India intend to take on that?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : We are saying that our reaction is unhappiness and we will certainly try to match with whatever weapon are necessary to meet the threat.

SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE ALLURI : Sir, in his reply the Hon. Minister has mentioned about the advanced version of MIGs. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether this sophisticated or re-modelled aircraft or whatever you may call it, is manufactured in the country or we are importing?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : We are expecting to manufacture the advanced version of the MIGs in India.

### Circulation of Fake 100 Rupee Note

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\*184. SHRI ARJUN SETHI :

SHRI SATYENDRA NARIAIN  
SINHA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state ;

(a) whether it is a fact that the Inter-pol/CBI has broadcast on decametric wavelength to all its world-wide stations net-work the international ramifications of the 'Jali note' operation spread out in at least three Asian countries;

(b) whether it is a fact that fake 100-Rupee notes bearing new 5BE 7AB series is in mass circulation throught India, Thailand, Sri Lanka and other countries ; and

(c) if so, the details and the steps taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of House.

### Statement

Fake 100 rupce bank notes bearing 5BE and 7AB series numbers have been detected in circulation in India. Some notes have also been detected in Thailand. It does not, however, appear that a large number of such counterfeit notes are at present in circulation in India. The Government have already taken necessary steps in this regard. In one case, the Delhi Police has been able to seize counterfeit notes of the face value of Rs. 90,600; As the case appeared to have national and international links, it was transferred to the Central Bureau of Investigations on 16.6.1983 for further investigation. So far 8 persons have been arrested. Seven more cases have been transferred to CBI

between 22.7.83 to 1.8.83. As investigations are still being carried out in collaboration with Interpol, it is not in the public interest to disclose any further information at this stage. However, the RBI has cautioned their offices and currency chests all over the country to exercise greater care while examining Rs. 100 notes.

**SHRI ARJUN SETHI :** Sir, although this subject has been discussed in the House in depth, the Minister has not stated all the names. It is mentioned in his statement that so far eight persons have been arrested. So, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister the names of the persons arrested so far and whether they all belong to Delhi or other parts of the country ?

**SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE :** Of the 8 people, one has been recently arrested in Delhi. His name is Nanak Singh. All the other 7 names are not readily available.

**SHRI ARJUN SETHI :** The Hon. Minister in his statement has mentioned that Government have already taken the necessary steps. What are the steps? During the course of investigation, was any official found to be involved in these processes and, if so, the details thereof ?

**SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE :** By the very nature of things, when the investigation is not complete, it would not be possible for me to indicate the details involved, to what extent they are involved etc. Then the whole purpose of the investigation would be lost. Secondly, this is a constant exercise. In order to make our currency notes secure, as far as possible, we take various measures. From time to time we change designs. For obvious reasons, the details of the security and safety measures cannot be disclosed. Then it would be an open information to those who are interested in this. Let them take the trouble of collecting the information; let me not provide information to them.

But I can assure the Hon. Member that in most of the cases where this type of fake

notes have been detected, in not a single case it has been totally identical with the genuine notes. That means there were some discrepancies and in quite a number of cases the bank officials have been able to detect them. Though it appears to be similar, it is not similar. It means that the security arrangements which we are introducing in our currency notes are ensuring that. In one case, which I referred to, an ordinary trader from his visual inspection could find out that though it appeared similar, it is not similar. So, he communicated it to the police. Therefore, we are taking care. From time to time we change the designs. By various printing and other technological methods we try to see that the currency becomes fool-proof as far as possible.

**SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA :** I am glad the Hon. Minister has stated that from time to time they are taking steps to prevent the counterfeiting of notes. But these counterfeit notes have been discovered from time to time, for a number of years, in 1980 and 1982, and even as early as in 1972 duplicate notes were found in the Reserve Bank, which had to be destroyed. It is a matter of concern that so far Government have not been able to take such step to make them completely fool-proof to prevent unwary people from being duped by such counterfeit notes. May I know whether it would be possible for the Government to take under such exercise and why it has not been done by them so far ? Secondly, who was responsible for detecting these counterfeit notes in Thailand? How did it come to the notice of the Government ?

**SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE :** In regard to the occurrence of counterfeit currency notes, we can reduce it to the minimum but perhaps it is not possible for anybody to give a guarantee that there will be no counterfeiting at all. I do not think any country in the world has been able to do it, whatever may be the security arrangements it has made.

I will repeat the one feature which I mentioned in reply to the earlier question. Because of our system of giving instructions to people who deal in cash in the bank and the treasury, in many cases, the counterfeit

notes were detected by the bank officials themselves. This shows that with the help of the instructions given to them they know what type of doubts are to be checked up. In one case even an ordinary trader by a visual inspection could detect that though it is similar, it is not the same thing.

In regard to the detection in Thailand, we referred the matter to the CBI and when CBI started investigation, in the course of investigation it was discovered that some fake currency notes were made available in Thailand. On an earlier occasion one place was raided by the local police and they found some half-finished fake currency notes and that matter is being investigated by the local people in consultation with our agencies.

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, has the attention of the Hon. Minister been drawn to a press cutting from *Swadesh* which is from Indore, that fake currency notes have been found and they have also been found previously twice but this time the news says that complete sheets printed 100-rupee notes have been missing from the Devas printing press. Has the investigation been done by the Government. Such cases have been reported from Dewas in Indore quite often. There has been something wrong with the methodology of the Printing Press. Complete printed sheet of 100-rupee notes have been missing. As far as the notes that have been found in Thailand are concerned. May I request the Government that they take the help of Interpol? There have been constant indications that fake notes from foreign countries have been pumped into this country.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, this *Swadesh* reports about fake notes. I am from Madhya Pradesh. So, I would also like to know about it.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : Regarding last part of the Hon. Member's question, in fact we have already kept Interpol informed, and as I mentioned in reply to the earlier question, the local police raided the premises and a place was found, that is

under the custody of the local police there. So, that matter has been taken care of.

In regard to the Dewas case the matter about which the Hon. Member drew my attention, I am told that we got the information and Madhya Pradesh police is investigating into this case.

श्री गिरधारीलाल व्यास : मंत्री महोदय ने इन अपराधियों के जो नाम बताए हैं, वे तो कोई इंडिविजुअलज हैं। मगर ऐसा लगता है कि आर्थिक अपराध करने वाले बहुत बड़े गिरोह इसमें मशगूल हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार इस प्रकार के गिरोहों का पता लगा सकती है, जो जाली नोट छापते हैं।

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : Sir, I have mentioned that the matter is under investigation. Unless the process of investigation is complete, it is not possible for me to indicate further details.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Sushil Bhattacharya.

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR : Sir, we want the death sentence for the fake currency notes holders.

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a question. This is a policy matter.

(Interruptions)

Delay in issuing Green Cards to Export-Oriented Companies.

\* 185. SHRI SUSHIL BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the issue of green cards to many 100 per cent export-oriented companies is being delayed by red-tapism; and

(b) if so, why are these companies thereby deprived of the facilities such as