

matter with the United States Government as they have not yet taken a final decision on waiver of Duty on screws ?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : We are pursuing the matter and in January last year a U. S. team had come and their apprehension was that they were giving subsidies or the cash assistance that they are giving is in the nature of subsidies but when they came here they were convinced. They saw that these are not subsidies but the cash assistance is for neutralisation of indirect taxes and I suppose that while the final decision has not come but this realisation on their part will help to solve the problem of screws.

SHRI K. OBUL REDDY : May I know whether the Minister will consider abolition of export duty on items which the Indian exporters feel difficult to export as they have to face lot of competition with other countries and as a result of fall in international market ?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : Sir, this is relating to abolition of export duty. Presently I think I will not be able to prophesy on this issue.

Transfer of Gold Deposits from Portugal.

*395. **SHRIMATI SANYOGITA RANE :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a team of officials of the State Bank of India had visited Lisbon to receive gold deposits which were transferred to Portugal on the eve of the liberation of Goa ;

(b) the number of account holders, the quantity and details of gold, ornaments and other valuables ; and

(c) when the transfer is likely to be completed ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Prior to liberation of the Portuguese territories of Goa, Daman and Diu, Goa branches of Banco Nacional Ultramarino (BNU), With Head Office in Lisbon had advanced several loans to local citizens against the security of gold ornaments pledged to the bank. These gold ornaments and other safe custody articles were removed to Lisbon a few days before the liberation of Goa, along with important records and documents including original documents executed by the borrowers etc. Precise data about the loans, value of ornaments, net weight in Gold is not available. According to the available information, the book value of the pledged ornaments was estimated at the time of liberation at Rs. 16.33 lakh, while the loans advanced against these ornaments amounted of Rs. 9.85 lakh in 6531 accounts. This information is subject to verification with the original documents and records which are in the possession of BNU, Lisbon.

After establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Portugal, efforts were made to secure the return of gold ornaments and safe custody articles from BNU, Lisbon. A delegation including representative of State Bank of India visited Portugal for discussion in the regard. In pursuance of the discussion held by the delegation with BNU, Lisbon, it has been decided to authorise State Bank of India to negotiate an inter-bank agreement with BNU Lisbon with regard to the return of gold ornaments and safe custody articles to India. The terms and conditions of the proposed agreement and other related matters have yet to be worked out between the two banks.

श्रीमती सयोगिता राणे : अध्यक्ष जी, गोवा के स्वतंत्र होने से पहले, गोवा के नागरिकों ने अपना सोना, खौने के, जेवर आदि बी.एन.यू. बैंक में रख कर कर्जा लिया था

उस बकत सोने की कीमत के आज के सोने मूल्य से बहुत कम थी। अब सोने की कीमत लाखों रुपये ऊंची है। गोवा के नागरिकों का यह हक है कि उनको उनका सोना वापिस मिले। ये लोग बैंक ब्याज की रकम भी टाईम पर देते आ रहे हैं। गोवा को स्वतंत्र हुए 20-21 वर्ष हो गये लेकिन अभी तक इसके बारे में कोई फाइनल डिसीजन नहीं हुआ है। आप और कितने समय तक इसके बारे में इंतजार करायेगे। सोना वापिस मिलने की निश्चित प्रवाध मंत्री जी क्या बतायेंगे ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : We have already taken it up and some sort of agreement is being worked out now. I do appreciate that it has taken a little longer time but the whole history is known to the hon. Member. It took almost 1½ decade to establish diplomatic relations with Portugal after the liberation of Goa all these valuables including the gold ornaments were taken to Lisbon. Naturally some people contacted individually the bank at Lisbon. Their number is very small, I am told about 450 or so. The delegation visited sometime in 1982. After that, we are working out an agreement. I do hope it would be possible for us to tackle this matter shortly.

श्रीमती सयोगिता राजे : लोगों की संख्या कम हो गई फिर भी उनका सोना तो वहां है। उनकी संख्या का तो सवाल ही नहीं है। जिनकी रकम है उनको तो वापस मिलनी चाहिए, उसका तो उनको हक है। उसके बारे में मंत्री जी क्या जवाब दे रहे हैं ?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : I am not saying that they should not get the gold back. I am trying to bring the gold back.

सिंडिकेट बैंक में हिन्दी का प्रयोग

397. श्री सत्यनारायण जटिया :

स्वामी इन्द्रवेश :

क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सिंडिकेट बैंक के अधिकारियों द्वारा अपने अधिनस्थ बैंकों को आदेश जारी किये गये हैं कि सिंडिकेट बैंक के कार्यकारण में हिन्दी के प्रयोग को रोका जाये ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्सम्बन्धी ब्योरा क्या है ;

(ग) उन अधिकारियों के विरुद्ध क्या कार्यवाही की जा रही है ; और

(घ) क्या बैंकों की परीक्षाओं में हिन्दी माध्यम की अनुमति नहीं है ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) ; (a) to (d) : A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a), (b) and (c) Presumably the reference is to certain instructions regarding the language in which the bank work has to be done issued by the Divisional Manager of East Patel Nagar Branch of Syndicate Bank. The bank has reported that the Divisional Manager had issued internal clarificatory instructions regarding the use of Hindi under some understanding. The bank has now intimated that these instructions have since been cancelled by the Divisional Manager of the East Patel Patel Nagar Branch. The bank has further reported that the concerned officer has been suitably instructed to be careful in future and the said branch continues to transact its business as per the Official Languages Act, 1963 and the Official