

[*Translation*]**Facilities to Tobacco Growers**

1503. SHRI PRAKASH KOKO BRAHMBHATT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tobacco Board requested the States of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Karnataka to take measures for the benefit of the tobacco growers;

(b) whether this step was proposed to ensure smooth payment of their produce by the traders;

(c) if so, whether traders have raised objections in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) steps taken by the Government for implementation of the proposal by the traders?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDAS PATEL): (a) to (e). The reference presumably is to the steps initiated by the Tobacco Board requesting the States to introduce auction for sale of bidi tobacco to ensure better price to the farmers for their produce. The traders have certain objections in this regard, mainly with regard to the availability of credit from the banking system. Government has taken up this matter with the Reserve Bank of India who have indicated that there will be no difficulty in meeting credit requirements of the trade. The Bill for bringing non-virginia tobacco within the purview of the Tobacco Board has already been introduced in the Parliament and further action in the matter will be taken after the Bill is passed.

[*English*]**Purchase of Brushes by SAIL**

1504. SHRIM.V.CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the steel plants of Steel Authority of India Ltd. have been purchasing various kinds of industrial and paint brushes from private sector industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to procure such brushes from public sector units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BASAVARAJ PATIL): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Alleged Misuse of Ganga Action Plan Aid**

1505. SHRIM.V.CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Netherland Government had sanctioned aid worth 100 crores Rupees for the Ganga Action Plan in Kanpur;

(b) whether reports have been received about the alleged misuse and diversion of the said foreign aid by the authorities in Kanpur;

(c) if so, the facts and details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government in the matter?