

[*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?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The Netherlands Government have given only Rs. 30.50 crores (at the present exchange rate of 1 d.fl. = 10) for Ganga Action Plan works at Kanpur.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Does not arise.

#### Setting up of Pig Iron Plants

1506. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:  
SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a need to increase the production of pig iron in the country;

(b) if so, the number of pig iron units proposed to be set up both in private and public sectors;

(c) the number of applications received from different States; and

(d) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BASAVARAJ PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). Pig iron is delicensed subject to certain locational restrictions. Entrepreneurs are therefore free to select locations for the manufacturing units keeping in view the availability of raw materials, nearness to market etc. According to the information available with the Department of Steel entrepreneurs are examining the possibility of setting up units in State of Andhra Pradesh (5), Madhya Pradesh (4), Maharashtra (3),

West Bengal (2), Karnataka (1) and Orissa (1). Necessary assistance in areas of import of technology, linkages of raw material, obtaining financial assistance is being provided to them.

#### Seizure of Heroin at Old Delhi Railway Station

1507. SHRI BALGOPAL MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether heroin worth crores of rupees was seized at Old Delhi Railway Station in November, 1990;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against the culprits, so far?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c). On 26.11.90, Delhi Police seized 4 Kgs of heroin and 6 Kgs of opium from the possession of a person on interception at Delhi Railway Station. The accused was arrested and further action, as per law, is being taken.

#### Exchange Rate of Kuwaiti Currency

1508. SHRI P.C. THOMAS:  
PROF. P.J. KURIEN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of Kuwaiti currency collected by the Government by issuing Rs. 25 per Dinar to Indians who returned from Kuwait;

(b) whether the Government have received any representation to enhance the rate of Rs. 25/-; and