

arises out of the question. About the suggestion of the hon. Member, I have noted it.....(Interruptions).

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : That is a very important question, Sir...

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You can put a new question.....

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Sir, he says that he does not know of it. It is not even in knowledge.....(Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, Mr. Thampan Thomas.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : Sir, my question relates to the investment to be made by the non-resident Indians working abroad. They are prepared to invest money in the equity shares of a company provided the Government gives them the incentive to get jobs for their dependents or their nominees in respective companies. So, I would like to know whether the Government will consider a proposition where the non-resident Indians my purchase shares of a company to a particular limit and get employment for their nominees or dependents. I received a memorandum also in this regard.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Sir, this is a suggestion for action and I have noted it.

[Translation]

Contractors Blacklisted in Khetri
Copper Project

*462. SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that seven contractors were blacklisted in Khetri Copper Project;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor

and the action taken against them; and

(c) whether their names have now been removed from the blacklist?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c). A statement is given belows.

Statement

(a) to (c). No contractor was blacklisted by Khetri Copper Project. However, business dealings with 8 contractors were suspended for the following reasons :—

(i) In one case, for using less proportion of cement than that specified in the contract, causing loss to the Company.

(ii) In the case of two firms for unlawful possession of some copper belonging to Hindustan Copper Limited.

(iii) In one case, civil contractor was in the habit of delaying work and was unable to execute the work properly and smoothly.

(iv) In case of 4 firms, certain allegations about mal-practices in contracts awarded were investigated by the Company. In view of the suspected dubious roles played by the parties, dealings with them were suspended. Subsequently, in the case of two of these firms, following a review, the authorities of Khetri Copper, Complex decided to give a fresh trial to them.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, districts Jhunjhunu and Sikar of Rajasthan have a glorious past. These districts have the distinction of sending the highest number of men to the Indian Army. There is a project named 'Khetri Project' in this

area in which some people are indulging in corruption. Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state the circumstances which led to blacklisting of seven contractors? What were the charges against them.

MR. SPEAKER : And what was the action taken?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Yes, Sir, Some of the contractor of this Khetri Project have been found to be indulging corruption, some in theft, some in sub-standard construction and some in adulteration of cement. Some cases of this type have come to light.....
(Interruptions)...

MR. SPEAKER : The cases are few; but the bungling is enormous.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Strict action has been taken against such people. Their contracts have been suspended and an inquiry has been ordered into it. They are not being given any further work. This is the action which we have taken against them.

SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN : Due to the setting up of this 'Khetri Project', the water level of the wells in the area has considerably gone down. Will the hon. Minister consider giving assistance to the farmers of that area?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : In this entire area, copper is at a very low level whereas the water is at a higher level. In order to get to the copper, water is required to be pumped out and the water thus pumped out is supplied to the farmers for irrigation in the neighbouring area. We cannot get to the copper unless we pump out the water. But, what happens during this process in that the water level falls considerably.

MR. SPEAKER : Investment as the water table has gone down, the farmers do not get water for irriga-

tion. What do you propose to do to help them?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : If we pump out the water, the water table is bound to go down and it is a fact that the water table has gone down. The water which we had to pump out was supplied to the local farmers and was not diverted somewhere else.

MR. SPEAKER : Whatever the requirement of water is, that is for 'Khetri Project'.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : No, no we do not require water for the project. It is necessary to pump out water in order to get to the copper and the water thus pumped out is supplied to the fields in the surrounding area.

MR. SPEAKER : What will the local people do if the entire water is pumped out at a stretch?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : We are prepared to pour that water into the wells if there is some method for doing so.

SHRI DAL CHANDER JAIN : Some arrangement should be made to see that the water table does not fall and that the farmers get water.

MR. SPEAKER : Some arrangement should be made to ensure supply of water to the farmers. If they pump out water, they should supply water from an alternative source.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : We shall take all possible steps.

MR. SPEAKER : Question No. 463.

[English]

Mushroom Growth of Private Financial Institutions

*463 SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are