

the State Plan. The Ministry is giving special central assistance just to supplement it. Apart from that, a number of Ministries and Departments of the Government of India like the Rural Development Department—the Hon. Member has mentioned the figure of Rs. 2,000 crores—are also quantifying funds earmarked for the benefit of the SC and ST populations. The programme chalked out by the Rural Development Department is uniform in every way. Besides, the SCA money which we are giving, those schemes are family beneficiary schemes in nature which are also covering the tribal population. The implementing agency at the block level for the IRDP is there. We have ITDPs in 184 areas of the country. And all the schemes have to be integrated in such a way by the Rural Development Department and the ITDPs that the family beneficiary schemes are implemented at the lowest level.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : IRDP and rural development programmes are separate programmes. You please answer the question relating to the welfare schemes of the STs.

MR. SPEAKER : He would like to know as to why there is no quantum jump in the development of the tribal people. Have you got any answer to that ?

SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO : Under the rural development programme, a minimum of 30 per cent of SC and ST population is covered in a block by the Rural Development Department. Apart from that, if the SCA money which are given for family-oriented beneficiary scheme, is put in this ; then the total money will be much more to cover SC & STs. The quantum jump is on the basis of the money available. An amount of Rs. 2000 crores that has been earmarked by the Rural Development Department in 1986-87 is mainly to cover SC & STs and others. But quantum jump or high jump cannot be possible unless there is a quantum jump in the allocation of money under these programmes.

**Tax exemption on interest income
from debentures**

*288. **SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to allow tax exemption on interest income from debentures upto a certain limit to pep up the confidence of investors in non-convertible debentures;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which it will induce investors to finance their money in non-convertible debentures ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI
JANARDHANA POOJARY) :** (a) No decision has been taken to exempt income from interest from non-convertible debentures issued by companies in the private sector.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK : My question is in general, but the Hon. Minister has replied with regard to the companies and debentures issued by the companies in the private sector. I want to know from the Hon. Minister whether any decision has been taken to exempt income from interest on non-convertible debentures issued by the companies in public sector or by private individuals. If so, the details thereof and the limit of exemption of interest and income from such debentures ?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : The non-convertible debentures are issued only by the private sector and not by the public sector undertakings. In the case of public sector undertakings there is an exemption on interest earned on the bonds issued by the public sector undertakings. So, for the debentures issued by the private sector, whether convertible or non-convertible, there is no income-tax exemption on these debentures.

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK : May I know whether the Indian Telephone Industries has issued debentures during the last financial year; if so, the details thereof, the value of the debentures and total amount for which debentures have been issued ? Is this facility also available or is being given to Indians residing in foreign countries ?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : So far as the bonds issued by the Telecommunication Department are concerned, the Department has issued them. The details of those bonds are available in the administrative Ministry, namely, the Telecommunication Department. So, the Hon. Member can put the question to the concerned Department. So far as non-resident's right to invest in these bonds is concerned, I require a notice for this.

[Translation]

Seizure of gold from smugglers

*289. **SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total value of gold seized from smugglers in January and February, 1987;

(b) since when these smugglers have been engaged in smuggling gold into country;

(c) whether these smugglers have links with foreign smugglers; and

(d) if so, the action taken to check smuggling of gold ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : (a) to (d). A statement is given below.

Statement

(a) During the months of January and February, 1987, contraband gold worth Rs. 11.75 crores (provisional) was seized under the Customs Act throughout the country.

(b) Gold continues to be sensitive to smuggling into the country due to its traditional demand and restricted supplies. As it is a clandestine activity, it is not possible to specify the period from which it commenced.

(c) In cases of organised smuggling, it is found that the local smugglers have links with persons abroad.

(d) The anti-smuggling machinery throughout the country particularly in vulnerable areas of sea coast, land border region and international airports remain alert to check and detect smuggling of gold into the country. Sophisticated anti-smuggling equipments such as metal detectors, baggage X-ray machines, C.C.T.Vs are utilised for prevention and detection of gold concealed on person of passengers and their baggage/in-cargo. Close co-ordination is maintained with all concerned agencies in the prevention and detection of gold smuggling into the country.

[Translation]

SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Minister's reply is very general and it does not disclose the names of guilty persons. The smuggling activity is increasing and gold worth Rs. 92 lakh has been seized this March. Are some officers also involved in this smuggling ?

[English]

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Sir, this question relates to the seizures that have been made in the year 1987. The number of seizures made and also the worth of the gold that has been seized has been mentioned. So far as the involvement of the officers and other detailed particulars of the carriers and the smugglers are concerned, these are not available now. We have to get those details. Because it is relating to January-February, that detailed information we are not yet having.

[Translation]

SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know the strong action taken against big smugglers in order to check smuggling and the steps taken by Government against the foreign smugglers involved in this racket ?

[English]

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Sir, the number of persons arrested in the year 1986 was 2,788, the number of persons prosecuted was 2,505 and the number of persons convicted in the year 1986 was 870. Apart from that, we have detained the cars