

Financial Packages offered to private units for setting up note Presses

120. SHRI ASHIS SEN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the financial packages offered to private sector units for setting up currency notes printing presses; and

(b) what are the details of the owners of the concerned private sector units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) There is no proposal to entrust printing of currency notes to private sector units.

(b) Does not arise.

Involvement of Drug enforcement agency with Clandestine Laboratories

121. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that clandestine laboratories are converting opium into smack and heroin with the connivance of drug enforcement agency personnel; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) Whenever information regarding clandestine laboratories is received, these laboratories are destroyed. No connivance of drug enforcement personnel has come to notice.

During 1991, two such laboratories were destroyed while in 1992, six laboratories have been destroyed till September, 1992.

Allowing foreign banks and Insurance companies in the country

122. SHRI ASHIS SEN:

SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: (a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to allow foreign

banks and insurance companies to operate in the country.

(b) if so, whether this is a forward step towards opening these fields for Indian companies also; and

(c) if so, by when Indian companies will be allowed to operate in these fields?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c) Foreign banks already have branches/ representative offices in the country. Permission to foreign banks for opening branches in India is granted by the Reserve Bank of India in terms of the provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. At present, there is no proposal to allow foreign insurance companies to operate in the country.

In so far as the question of permitting new banks in the private sector is concerned, Reserve Bank of India are considering various requirements and norms for the same.

RBI Circular to Scheduled Banks

123. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJI RAO SHINDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Reserve Bank of India had issued on September 10, 1992 a circular to all scheduled banks not to utilise their accounts maintained with RBI for any purpose other than fulfilling their statutory requirements;

(b) if so, what are the details of instruction and guidelines laid down therein; and

(c) the circumstances warranting such a circular?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a): It is a fact that such a circular dated 9th September, 1992 (and not dated 10th September, 1992)