

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) According to information furnished by the State Government of Assam, only one case of a foreign national challenging the verdict of the Tribunal by producing a forged citizenship certificate obtained from West Bengal, which on enquiry was found to be forged, has so far been reported. The power to issue citizenship, certificates now vests in the Central Government and the same are issued in accordance with a Central Act.

Drug trafficking in Pushkar

1632. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Temple Town of Pushkar has emerged as a major centre of drug trafficking where charas, ganja and even smack are freely available for offering to the Gods;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to remove this evil from this holy-city of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (c) No large-scale trafficking of drugs in Pushkar has come to the notice of the Government. However, small quantities of drugs like opium, charas and smack have been seized by the police. The number of such cases and persons arrested by the Police are as under:

Year	No. of cases	No. of arrests
1985	20	20
1986	17	17
1987	7	7
1988	5	9
(upto 10-11-1988)		

The operations against suspected places (including hotels) have not resulted in the recovery of any drugs. Enquiries with the local police and intelligence gathered confirm that there are no organised gangs indulging in large-scale drug trafficking at Pushkar.

The customs staff at Ajmer have been alerted to keep watch on the activities of drug smugglers both at Pushkar and Aimer. Special drive against smugglers is also launched. Deterrent punishments against drug-offenders have been provided in the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985. The Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988 provides for preventive detention of drug offenders upto a maximum period of 2 years. Further, the Government of Rajasthan has been specifically advised to take necessary enforcement action against possible diversion of opium from licit cultivation and attempted clandestine manufacture of drugs.

Conversion of debentures

1633. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:
SHRI BEKAL UTAHI:
SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI:
SHRI DHULESHWAR
MEENA:
SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP
SINGH:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A.
PARMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that loans from financial institutions like IDBI, ICICI, LIC, UTI, GIC and IFCI carry convertibility clause so that the loans given by them to various companies are converted to equity share at face value;

(b) whether it is also a fact that non-convertible debentures of various companies were allowed to be conver-

ted into equity share according to the guidelines laid down by Government in 1984;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for putting a sudden ban on conversion of non-convertible debentures in June, 1986;

(d) to what extent such an action of Government was in public interest; and

(e) what are the reasons for not putting a ban on the conversion of loans by financial institutions and thereby making discrimination between the two?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) In accordance with the existing guidelines, the institutions stipulate "convertibility clause" in each case where the financial assistance sanction exceeds Rs. 5 crores. However, no conversion option is stipulated by the financial institutions where the aggregate rupee assistance for project finance does not exceed Rs. 5 crores and the combined shareholdings of institutions exceeds 25 per cent in the case of non-MRTP companies and 40 per cent in the case of MRTP companies. For purposes of stipulating "convertibility clause" only rupee assistance is taken into account and the foreign currency loans are kept out from the purview of the guidelines.

(b) to (d) The Government took a decision in June, 1986 that conversion of non-convertible debentures and the non-convertible portion of partially convertible debentures into equity shares shall not be permitted. Since then no such approval for conversion have been given.

(e) Convertibility of loans given by all India financial institutions and conversion of otherwise of non-convertible debentures floated by companies are different scheme.

Decline in U.S. aid

1634. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the quantum of U.S. aid to India in 1951 onwards was much more than what is received at present; and

(b) if so, what are the main reasons therefor and what steps are being taken by Government to get more aid from the United States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It had been explained by the U.S. authorities that decline in their assistance has been mainly on account of their internal budgetary constraints. Our concern at the cut in aid has been conveyed to the U.S. side.

Haldia Petrochemicals Project

1635. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have re-examined the financial and other aspects of the proposed Haldia Petrochemicals Project in consultation with the State Government of West Bengal; and

(b) if so, what are the results of the re-examination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) The IDBI had as a result of its appraisal of the project at Haldia indicated that the size of the ethylene plant which was part of the project was well below the minimum economic size and as a result, the costs of production would be