

notification under NH Act were vetted by the Ministry of Law. Recently, an amendment has been made in the Allocation of Business Rules by which these notifications are not required to be sent to the Ministry of Law. The Ministry of Law has approved the standard formats of various notifications keeping in view the similar nature of the notifications of Land Acquisition.

- e) To expedite the construction of ROB's an officer of the Railways has been posted to NHAI to coordinate with Ministry of Railways. MOU has also been signed with M/s. IRCON for construction of some of the ROB's.
- f) Action has been taken against non-performing contractors and they are not allowed to bid for future projects unless they improve the performance in existing contracts.
- g) Terminated contracts have been re-awarded by the NHAI.

NIA to investigate fake currency crimes

*170. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently directed the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to investigate a fake Indian currency notes (FICN) related crime registered by anti-terrorism squad of Maharashtra police recently;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the Inter-State and International linkages behind the printing and circulation of fake Indian currency notes have increased in the past few years; and

(d) if so, the manner in which Government proposes to eliminate such networks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Government has directed the National Investigation Agency to investigate a Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICNs) case No. 07/09 registered at Police Station, ATS, Mumbai under sections 489A, 489B, 489C and 120B IPC.

(c) As per available information, cases having inter-State and international linkages behind printing and circulation of FICNs have come to notice. Available inputs also indicate that the international dimension of FICN circulation has increased in the last few years.

(d) To address the multi-dimensional aspects of the FICN menace, several agencies such as the RBI, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Intelligence Agencies of the Centre, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), etc. are working in tandem to thwart the nefarious activity related to FICNs. The activities of these agencies are also periodically reviewed in a nodal group set up for this purpose. In this context, at the functional level, the CBI has been declared as the nodal agency for coordination with the States; the Directorate General of Revenue Intelligence has been nominated as the Lead intelligence Agency for this purpose. Apart from the above, the State

Governments have been asked to set up dedicated and well-equipped Cell under senior level supervision to comprehensively monitor and deal with organized crimes including FICN, and also specifically designate a nodal officer to coordinate activities relating to FICNs. The States have also been asked to set up a Committee headed by the DGP of the State with GM/DGM of RBI, senior officers of SIB, Intelligence Branch of State Police, CID of State Police, etc. as members.

Further, the offences under IPC, relating to counterfeit currency have been included in the schedule to the National Investigation Agency Act, thereby empowering the National Investigation Agency to investigate and prosecute such offences.

Denotifying of SEZs

*171. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain developers have asked the Government to denotify the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) developed by them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken the decision to denotify the SEZs; if so, what are the revenue implications for Government;

(d) whether the developers of the SEZs have to pay any security or penalty in lieu of revenue loss for denotifying the SEZs; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Requests for de-notification have been received from seven developers out of which six have been approved by the Board of Approval for SEZs subject to confirmation from concerned authorities that all the fiscal benefits if availed by them are refunded.

(d) and (e) The denotification has been allowed subject to refund of fiscal benefits availed by the Developers.

Request to hike customs duty on palmolein and palm oil

*172. PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Palmolein and Palm oil are imported at zero duty;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government of Kerala has requested to hike the duty in order to save coconut growers from crash of price of coconut; and

(d) if so, details and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Crude palm oil and crude Palmolein are allowed to be imported at 'Zero'