

(b) whether Government have enquired into it, if so, what are its findings?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) and (b) Export of processed mica and mica scrap is canalised (through Mica Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (MITCO). Though exports are canalised private exporters have been afforded the facility to obtain export orders from General Currency Area and service 50 per cent of such orders themselves and the balance 50 per cent is left for servicing by MITCO. Out of the total exports during the year 1984-85, 74 per cent of the order were obtained directly by MITCO.

Representations against this arrangement have been received. At present, no change in the sharing arrangement is contemplated.

leakage in opium factory in Madhya Pradesh

947. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any study regarding the extent of leakage in Government-run opium factory in Madhya Pradesh and of the growth of clandestine opium farms in Uttar Pradesh and other parts of the country and their contribution to the illegal narcotics trade; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the measures taken by Government to plug the leakage and to check the growth of clandestine opium farms in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANPOOJARI):

(a) and (b) No, Sir.

It is, however, stated that in the Government Opium and Alkaloid Works, Neemuch which has been declared as a 'protected area', there

is a two-tier security system. The staff of the Central Industrial Security Force and the preventive & intelligence staff of the Central Bureau of Narcotics keep a strict vigil. There are no report of any leakage of opium from the factory.

The staff of the Narcotics Department keep a constant vigil, particularly during the opium poppy cultivation season, in the area licensed for poppy cultivation to prevent leakage of opium from licit cultivation. As compared to the total production of opium in the country the leakage as indicated by internal seizures is not significant.

Periodical high-level meetings are held with the State enforcement agencies for reviewing the illicit traffic situation including matters relating to illicit cultivation. Deterrent punishment has been provided for offences including those relating to illicit cultivation and trafficking of opium etc. under the recently enacted Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.

Consumption of petroleum products in Government offices

948. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to issue instructions to the Central Government offices and Central Public undertakings to effect saving in the consumption of petroleum products;

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

(c) what are the details of petroleum products consumption in the Central Government offices and Central Public undertaking during the last three years, year-wise; and

(d) what is the anticipated saving in their consumption in these offices during the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI)-(a) and (b) It is a continuing process for the Government to initiate measures to curb in essential and avoidable expenditure including that of petroleum products.

(c) and (d) The information is not centrally available nor is it practicable to collect the same, within reasonable time.

Special assistance to Karnataka and Rajasthan

949. SHEI F. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be please^ to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Agriculture had asked the Ministry of Finance to accord special treatment to the States of Karnataka and Rajasthan which had been affected continuously by drought for four consecutive years; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what action has been taken by his Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

Setting up of hotels by large industrial houses

950. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: DR. LOKESH CHANDRA:

Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state-

(a) whether it is a fact that large industrial houses falling under the

provisions of MRTP have recently been allowed to set up hotels in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The hotel industry has been exempted by Government from the provisions of the METP Act, 1969 vide Notification No. S.O. 65(E) dated 21-2-1986 in exercise of the powers contained in Section 22A of the Act.

Fall in foreign exchange reserves

951. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: DR. LOKESH CHANDRA,

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign exchange reserves have registered a decline during the last two months; if so, what is the extent of decline;

(b) what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to check the fall in foreign exchange reserves?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) The foreign exchange reserves (excluding Gold and SDRs) which stood at Rs. 6905 crores on 30th November, 1985 declined by Rs. 448 crores at the end of January, 1986. The detailed Balance of payments data, with details of the individual factors affecting movements in foreign exchange assets during this period are not yet available.

The level of reserves is continuously kept under review with a view to ensuring that the country's commitments with regard to debt service and requirement of goods and services are met.