

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Presumably, the Hon'ble Member is referring to the Press Report titled "Partners of Bhilai firm held" which appeared in the New Delhi edition of the "Times of India" dated February 10, 1985.

According to Press Reports, Bhilai Trading Company (BTC) a partnership concern was accepting deposits from the public, ranging from Rs. 40 upwards for 75 days on the promise of supply of goods twice the value of the deposit. A very large number of persons were reported to have made deposits with the firm.

According to the available information, the State Government of Madhya Pradesh have initiated action and arrested three partners and an employee of the Company, sealed all the shops and seized the records.

(b) Prior to coming into force, with effect from 15-2-1984, of the Banking Laws (Amendment) Act, 1983, no suitable provision was available for taking action against unscrupulous individuals/firms and unincorporated bodies accepting deposits from public. The provisions newly introduced by the said Amendment Act places a ceiling on the number of depositors (excluding relatives) from whom deposits can be accepted by individuals/firms/unincorporated bodies. The enforcement of these provisions rests with the State Governments and the Courts.

Setting up of National Council of Steel

911. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a National Council of Steel; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) A Steel Advisory Council has been set up.

(b) Steel Advisory Council has been set up under the Chairmanship of Minister, Steel, Mines and Coal and consists of representatives of the Government, steel industry, experts, consumers and labour leaders. The Council has been set up to advise the Central Government on matters concerning the development and growth of the steel industry and to provide a forum to ensure flow of fresh ideas to improve the functioning of the steel industry in the country.

Unearthing of mail order business racket by customs officials in Bombay

912. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item which appeared in the Hindustan Times of 18th February, 1985 captioned "Bombay mail order racket smashed" wherein it has been stated that Customs officials have unearthed a mail order business racket run by some syndicates in Bombay and Dubai and seized contraband goods worth Rs. 82 lakhs; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the seizures made and the names of persons apprehended in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) The Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem in the daily 'Hindustan Times' of 18th February, 1985 under the caption "Bombay Mail Order Racket Smashed". Facts of the case are as follows:—

The officers of the Marine and Preventive Wing of the Customs (Preventive) Collectorate, Bombay, have detected a racket in misuse of Transfer of Residence facility and clearance of unaccompanied baggage from Bombay Docks. As a result of the investigations conducted from 19-12-84 upto 22.3.1985, contraband goods valued at Rs. 1.88 crores have been seized in 49 cases, 15 persons have also been arrested in this connection.