

Sale of Bearer Bonds on premium

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

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent sale of bearer bonds on a premium thereby giving rise to black money instead of checking it;

(b) if so, what is the amount of money involved in such transactions according to information with Government; and

(c) what steps government are taking or intend to take in order to check this trend?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) to (c) Special Bearer Bonds worth Rs. 964.45 crores were sold by Government. Although transfer of bearer bonds is permitted, bonds on maturity will be redeemed by Government at par only i.e., Rs. 964.45 crores. Reports have appeared that bearer bonds are being exchanged at a premium; however, official information is not available on the amount of private transactions in such bonds. The Government is committed to taking stern measures in accordance with the legal provisions against tax offenders in order to combat the evil of black money. Bearer bonds by themselves, however, do not create black money.

Pulmonary Oedema ailment affecting troops at high altitude

205. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that high altitude Pulmonary Oedema is the most common serious ailment affecting troops serving at an altitude of more than 11,000 feet; and

(b) if so, what remedial steps Government have taken in this regard while maintaining defence needs?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Pulmonary Oedema is one of the more common serious ailments affecting troops serving at high altitudes.

(b) The following remedial measures have been taken to minimise the incidence of Pulmonary Oedema amongst the troops:—

(i) Training of Medical Officers and personnel before their posting to high altitudes to enable early detection of conditions of Pulmonary Oedema;

(ii) detailed medical examination of all troops before induction to high altitudes;

(iii) Gradual acclimatisation by enforcing a proper schedule;

(iv) Reduction in tenures depending upon the altitudes;

(v) The provision of well equipped hospitals and forward first-aid and treatment centres to arrest the disease at the earliest at the onset of the symptoms and signs of effects of high altitudes;

(vi) Provision of portable oxygen equipment;

(vii) Health education as regards preventive measures; and

(viii) continuing medical research on the subject to gain more knowledge to help contain the incidence of the disease.

Investment in State Public Sector Units

206. SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN: SHRI M. KADHARSHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the State-wise investment by the Central Government in Public Sector Units during the last five years; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to correct the imbalance of investments amongst States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) A statement showing the statewise investment in terms of Gross Block in the Central Public Enterprises for the 5 years 1978-79, 1979-80, 1980-81, 1981-82 & 1982-83 is enclosed. (See below)