

### Concentration of troops along India's borders

\*56. SHRI J. K. JAIN :

SHRI B. KRISHNA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether heavy concentration of troops along India's borders by neighbouring countries and the arms build up in the Indian Ocean are causing a threat to the country's security;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to defuse the tension;

(c) whether any plan has been chalked out to augment and to further modernise the fleet of the Indian Navy; and

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

### THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE

(SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) There is no evidence of any unusual concentration of troops along India's borders by neighbouring countries. There is, however, reliable information that armed forces of our neighbouring countries are being modernised and strengthened. There are also reports regarding increasing militarisation of Indian Ocean by big powers. These developments undoubtedly have security implications for us.

(b) India is committed to the policy of maintaining friendly relations with the neighbouring countries. Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a 'Zone of Peace' Government have taken several diplomatic initiatives in this regard.

(c) and (d) Consistent with our national objective modernisation of Indian Navy is an on-going process. The Naval plans are prepared keeping in view foreseen threat perceptions as well as technological developments in hardware from time to time.

### Transfer of shares of FERA Company

\*57. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a foreign shareholder of a FERA company is permitted to sell the share of the company to any other person in a foreign country without obtaining the permission of the Reserve Bank of India;

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what guidelines Government have issued for granting permission in such cases?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) to (c) According to Section 19 (5) of FERA, 1973 no transfer of any share of a company registered in India made by a person resident outside India or by a national of a foreign state to another person whether resident in India or outside India shall be valid unless such transfer is confirmed by the Reserve Bank of India. However this Section is not applicable to transfer of ownership of companies registered outside India which in turn might be holding shares of Indian companies.

The Reserve Bank of India, being the statutory authority, considers proposals under the provisions of FERA 1973, for transfer of shares on merits. No specific guidelines have been issued by Government for granting permission in such cases.

### Loans to adivasis and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

\*58. SHRI RAMSINGHBHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVAKOLI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for the distribution of more loans to Adivasis, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and weaker sections of the society;

(b) if so, what concrete steps have been taken so far for providing loans to these classes of people;

(c) what is the amount of loans disbursed to Adivasis during 1st January, 1983 to 31st December, 1984 by the various nationalised and other banks in the various places of the Districts of aroda, Surat and Union territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli; and

(d) whether Government are aware of the complaints to the effect that Adivasis are not getting their due share of loans and are facing difficulties in getting loans; if so, what are the details thereof and the steps taken to improve the procedure so that these classes of people may easily get loans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (d) Public sector banks have been set a target of raising their priority sector advances to the level of 40 per cent of total advances by March 1985. Not less than 25 per cent of these advances are to flow to weaker sections including SC/ST.

To achieve this objective, banks are actively participating in special programmes directed towards improving the economic status of the people belonging to weaker sections.

Data regarding advances to SC/ST are available statewide. For December 1983, public sector banks had outstanding priority sector advances of Rs. 47.4 crores involving 3.1 lakh borrowal accounts of SC/ST borrowers in Gujarat and Rs. 11 lakh in 565 borrowal accounts in Dadra & Nagar Haveli.

Simplification of application forms liberalisation of margin and security requirements, provision of postlending guidance etc. are some of the measures banks are taking to facilitate flow of credit to SC/ST borrowers. Banks have also been advised that rejection of loan applications of SC/ST should be at a level higher than the branch-level.

### Modernisation of public sector steel plants

\*59. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any plans have been drawn up to modernise the steel plants in the public sector;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what will be the estimated expenditure; and

(c) by when the modernisation process is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE):

(a) to (c) The schemes for the renovation and technological upgradation of the steel plants at Durgapur, Rourkela and Burnpur (IISCO) have been prepared and are under various stages of consideration of Government.

The schemes envisage that the rated capacities of the plants would be restored by adoption of appropriate and cost effective technologies. These are estimated to cost approximately Rs. 930 crores for Durgapur, Rs. 691 crores for Rourkela and Rs. 931 crores for IISCO.

The time frame of completion will be known after investment decisions are taken.

### Loss incurred by Coal Companies under CIL

\*60. SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA:

PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO:

Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) what are the companies under Coal India Limited which have been running at a loss during the last three years;

(b) what was the extent of loss, year-wise;

(c) what were the causes of such losses in some companies only; and