

Violation of memorandum of association of company by M/s. Jain Shudh Vanaspati Ltd.

1228. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the import of beef tallow and pig tallow by M/s. Jain Shudh Vanaspati Limited, was ultra-vires of the Memorandum of Association of the Company; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

R.B.I. report of enquiry into the affairs of Punjab and Sind Bank.

1229. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the discussion on the Calling Attention Notice held on the 9th December, 1981 regarding alleged irregularities committed by the Punjab and Sind Bank in the matter of granting loans and administering the funds of the bank and state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India made any enquiry into the affairs of the Punjab and Sind Bank and submitted the report;

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

(c) what action Government have taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Report of the Reserve Bank of India has indicated five officers of Punjab and Sind Bank.

(c) The Bank has reported that it is taking necessary departmental

action against the officials indicted in the report.

Exemption from marking the maximum sale price on cigarette packets

1230. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that all cigarette factories are required under the Rules to exhibit the maximum price at which the packet is to be sold on each individual packet cleared from the factory;

(b) whether this primary requirement is being strictly enforced in respect of all cigarette factories all over India;

(c) whether any special exemption or concession has been extended in respect of any single cigarette factory or in respect of any brand from the above requirement;

(d) if so, what are the special circumstances leading to such exemption; and

(e) whether a similar concession is likely to be extended to all other cigarette factories and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) and (b) Cigarette factories are required under the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977 to exhibit the sale price of the package. The responsibility for enforcing this requirement lies with the State Governments and the Union Territories Administrations.

(c) and (d) M/s. Vazir Sultan Tobacco Company had contemplated an upward price revision during the month of March, 1984 for most of their brands of cigarettes on account of escalation of costs of inputs. During the interim period of 10-15 days, while the price structure was being finalised, they were not able to print the revised prices on the cigarette

packets. They submitted that they could not close the factory since this might create a law and order problem. The anticipated production during this period was around 23 million individual packets. Re-marking the price on 23 million packets would also involve enormous time and labour. In view of these peculiar circumstances, firm cleared the goods after marking retail prices on cartons of 200 cigarettes, instead of on individual packets for a short period in March, 1984, in respect of all brands of cigarettes manufactured by them. The State Government was kept informed of this matter as they administer the provisions of the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977.

(e) As the above procedure was adopted by the firm purely on a temporary basis on account of the special circumstances, the question does not arise.

Vacancies in the Assistant's Grade in the Ministry of Defence to be Filled in by Direct Recruitment

1231. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the number of substantive vacancies in the Grade of Assistant in his Ministry (CSS) reserved for direct recruitment as on the 30th June, 1979; and

(b) how many out of them had already been reported to the UPSC to be filled on the basis of Assistant's Grade, 1978 examination.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) Sixteen substantive vacancies in the Grade of Assistant (CSS) in the Ministry of Defence were reserved for direct recruitment as on 30-6-1979. Earlier, eleven substantive vacancies of Assistant as on 1-2-1979 were reported to Department of Personnel & Administrative Reforms to be filled in on the basis of Assistant's Grade Examination, 1978.

Smuggling of Uranium

@1231-A. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:
SHRI SHANTI TYAGI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:—

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item appearing in the Hindu of 13th April, 1984 regarding smuggling of uranium from Jadugoda uranium mines of Bihar to Pakistan via Nepal;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and whether the Embassy of Nepal has apprised the Government of India of this racket; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government in this regard ;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The newspaper report attributing the source of the news-item to our Embassy in Kathmandu has no basis. Reports of smuggling of Indian Uranium to Pakistan via Nepal have also been found to be without substance.

(c) Strict security measures exist against any pilferage of Uranium from the mine and mill complex.

Further, appropriate anti-smuggling measures have been taken by the Government to check smuggling activities generally across the Indo-Nepal border. Bilateral arrangements also exists between India and Nepal under the Agreement for Co-operation to Control Unauthorised Trade. The preventive, and intelligence machinery of the Customs Department have been reinforced in terms of manpower and equipment in the region. The concerned Central and State agencies on the Indo-Nepal border have been instructed to remain vigilant.

@Previously Unstarred Question 724 transferred from the 3rd May, 1984.