

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) The Reserve Bank of India has directed the Punjab National Bank on the 15th June, 1983 not to release Rs. 1,07,22,610 remitted by the Caparo Group of companies of U.K. to the account of M/s. Rajaram Bhasin and Co., Members of the Delhi Stock Exchange. The question whether the 13 companies belonging to Caparo Group Ltd., U. K. are eligible for making investment under the liberalised portfolio investment scheme is under the examination of the Government of India, in consultation with the Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs.

Purchase of Shares by Foreign Companies

270. SHRI N. P. CHENGALRAYA NAIDU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of shares of various Indian companies company-wise, purchased so far by foreign companies;

(b) what fresh steps Government propose to take to reduce this trend; and

(c) to what extent these shares purchased by foreign companies will affect the Indian economy and also the Indian companies?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Aid Cut by World Bank

271. SHRI N. P. CHENGALRAYA NAIDU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Bank consortium has reduced the aid by 3 per cent to India for 1983-84;

(b) if so, what are the main reasons therefor;

(c) to what extent this aid cut by World Bank will affect the Indian projects; and

(d) what steps are being taken by Government to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) In SDR terms the aid indicated at the India Consortium 1983-84 was about 3.3 billion SDR's which is about the same level as in 1982-83.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Inquiry by R.B.I. into the affairs of the Foreign Companies which have Purchased Shares of Indian Companies

272. SHRI N. P. CHENGALRAYA NAIDU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has decided to hold a detailed inquiry into the affairs of the 13 overseas companies to determine whether the shares they have purchased in Indian companies under the non-resident Indians' investment schemes are valid; and

(b) if so, by when the inquiry is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) There is no formal enquiry as such. The question as to whether the 13 overseas companies belonging to the Caparo Group Ltd. of U.K. are eligible for investing in Indian companies under the liberalised portfolio investment scheme is under examination, in consultation with the Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs.

Deposit and Investment firms Registered with R.B.I.

273. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: