

Germany may slash bilateral aid to this country in 1983 ;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the same ; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take in this regard ?

**THE MINISTER OF FINANCE
(SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) :**

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Rebate claims by Hindustan Levers for doing research

1395. **SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that public exchequer is being deprived of huge amounts of money by way of rebate claims made by Hindustan Lever year after year under the cover of doing research ;

(b) what is the monitoring system to watch that the research conducted by the multinationals is in the interest of the country ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the research conducted at the Research Centre of Hindustan Lever at Bombay was meant for its global use ; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons for which no action has been taken to put a stop to the exploitation of the country under the cover of research ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE
(SHRI PATTABHI RAMA
RAO) :** (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as possible.

Smuggling activities by foreign diplomats

1396. **SHRI J. P. GOYAL :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received reports that several foreign diplomats are engaged in large-scale smuggling, including smuggling of sophisticated arms and ammunition ;

(b) whether Government have ordered a thorough inquiry into the matter ;

(c) if so, what has been the outcome of the inquiry ; and

(d) what action has been taken against these foreign diplomats involved in smuggling activities ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE
(SHRI PATTABHI RAMA
RAO) :** (a) The Customs authorities have, over the recent past, detected some cases of smuggling by foreign diplomats. However, no instance of smuggling of sophisticated arms and ammunition by diplomats has come to Government's notice.

(b) and (c) Whenever any case of involvement of foreign diplomats in smuggling is detected, the matter is thoroughly investigated by the Customs authorities.

(d) Government have taken appropriate action with the co-operation of the Governments of the countries concerned, and remain in confidential touch with these Governments with a view to preventing any recurrence of such abuses. In view of the friendly relations and continuing co-operation with the countries concerned, it would not be appropriate to disclose the details of the action taken in such cases.