

under consideration for fixing a ratio between minimum and maximum incomes arising in different occupations and different sectors. However, the reduction of disparity in incomes is an important objective of long-term economic policy of the country and efforts are being made on a continuing basis to reduce such disparities through fiscal and other measures.

Smuggling of gold

464. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received reports about a possible further spurt in the smuggling of gold into the country;

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

(c) what steps Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA):

(a) and (b) According to reports received by Government, gold continues to be sensitive to smuggling on account of the increasing price differential between international and the domestic price of gold.

(c) The preventive and intelligence machinery has been strengthened and the field formations alerted to prevent any attempts at smuggling of gold into the country.

Loans and grants under 20-point Programme

465. SHRI GHANSHYAM SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under the 20-Point Programme, families below the poverty line are to be given loans and grants on 50:50 basis to improve their economic conditions;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this loan-cum-grant is given for (i) agricultural purposes, (ii) setting up of cottage industries, and (iii) commercial purposes;

(c) if so, how many families have been able to get gainful employment under the three categories during 1981-82 as a result of the grant of loan-cum-grants;

(d) whether it is a fact that persons below Rs. 2300/- annual income group get State Bank loans at the rate of 4 per cent interests and those below Rs. 3500/- have to pay interest at the rate of 12 1/2 per cent; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) Presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) which is included in the new 20-Point Programme. Beneficiaries identified under IRDP are provided subsidy ranging from 25 per cent to 50 per cent on the cost of the scheme and depending on the category to which they belonged. The remaining amount is advanced by the banks as loan.

(b) The target groups identified under IRDP comprise mainly of the poorest amongst the poor in the rural areas and these include agricultural labourers, landless workers, rural artisans, marginal farmers etc. Subsidy-cum-loan is provided to such beneficiaries for all productive schemes which could enable them to raise their incomes and cross the poverty-line.

(c) The existing data system does not yield information as asked for in the question. However, as per the latest information available the total number of beneficiaries under the IRDP during 1981-82 was 26,58,185.

(d) and (e) Presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to the dif-

ferential Rate of Interest Scheme which is also meant primarily for the benefit of weaker sections. Under this scheme loans are provided at the rate of 4 per cent to such individuals where the family income from all sources does not exceed Rs. 3000 per annum in urban and semi-urban areas or Rs. 2000 per annum in rural areas.

Non-resident's share-holding in M/s. Hindustan Lever Limited

466. SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether M/s. Hindustan Levers' (a subsidiary of the British MNC Unilever) plea for retaining a non-resident's share-holding of 51 per cent has been accepted by Government;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) what will be the position of this foreign multinational under the provision of Foreign Exchange Regulations Act?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The representation from the Company has been considered after taking into account all relevant aspects of the matter, in particular the company's exceptional performances in exports. It has been decided to allow the company to retain 51 per cent provided the company fully meets the FERA guidelines in a year. The company will continue to be subject to the provisions of the FERA.

Industries facing recession

467. SHRI G. C. BHATTACHARYA: SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some industries are facing recession, if so, the names of such industries along-

with the extent of their recession and the reasons therefor; and

(b) what steps are being taken by Government to tackle the problem of recession?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) There is no general recession in the economy. However, in certain industries some adjustment of demand and supply may be taking place following the visible success achieved in curbing inflation and some other factors specific to these industries. Efforts to encourage industrial production by implementing appropriate policy measures are a continuing process.

Smuggling of gold

468. SHRI SURESH SHAMRAO KALMADI:

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge quantity of gold has been smuggled into the country during the last six months;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and its possible impact on the domestic prices of the metal; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to check smuggling of gold into the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA):

(a) According to the reports received by Government, gold continues to be sensitive to smuggling into the country on account of increasing price differential between the international and domestic markets of the commodity. The total quantity of gold seized in 1982 (up to May) was about 559 kilograms valued at about Rs. 9.20 crores.