

policy, procedure and institution related recommendations aimed at attaining the level of ingenuity, flexibility, procedural simplicity and competitiveness achieved by competitor nations.

The proposals of ASSOCHAM to the above Task Force also include proposals on (i) Removal of tax discrimination between product and project exporters; (ii) Increased deduction on income from royalties and patents; (iii) Rationalisation of tax treatment for joint ventures. These are still under the consideration of the Task Force. As regards the suggestion for exemption from customs duty for used equipments, it is stated that para 2.23 of the Exim Policy (2002-2007) already provides that after completion of the project abroad, project contractors may import, without a licence/ certificate/permission, used goods including capital goods provided they have been used for at least for one year.

#### **Development of Bodoland area of Assam**

2541. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA : Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that too much irregularities are being done by the State Governments and other implementing agencies in the implementation of Prime Minister's special financial package for the development of the Bodoland area of Assam;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is delay in the process of releasing money from the Centre to the States or the other implementing agencies;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (d) No, Sir. No such complaint of irregularity has been received in the Department of Development of North Eastern Region. However, there have been cases of delay in release of funds. 19 road projects for Bodoland Autonomous Council Area were approved from Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources in September 2000 with the stipulation that the projects be executed through Border Roads Organisation (BRO). Government of Assam however agreed to handover these road projects to BRO only by August 2001. Rs. 18 crore was thereafter released in October 2001. The BRO has since reported utilization of Rs. 16.62 crore. Besides, five other projects were also

approved in September 2000 to be directly implemented by Government of Assam. Rs. 4.20 crore was released in January-February 2001. The Government of Assam passed on these funds at the disposal of Bodoland Autonomous Council between December 2001 to May 2002. Against this Rs. 4.20 crore, the State Government has reported utilization of Rs. 1.59 crore only. Release of subsequent installment of funds depend upon receipt of utilization certificate and Quarterly Progress Report. State Government has been requested to expeditiously implement the projects and utilize the funds so as to claim subsequent installments.

#### **Disinvestment of Indian Airlines/Air India**

2542. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of the disinvestment proposal in Indian Airlines/Air India;
- (b) by when it is likely to be implemented;
- (c) the total value of disinvestment; and

(d) the reasons for finalizing purchase of new aircrafts when disinvestment is finally being considered?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE):

(a) The process of disinvestment in both Indian Airlines and Air India was started by the Government in June 1999. But all the bidders gradually withdrew. Thereafter, the process has not been re-started.

(b) and (d) Do not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

#### **Request from IFCI**

2543. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received request from the IFCI to disqualify certain Companies/Groups from bidding;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for their request; and