

(b) if so, whether indigenous edible oil prices has since risen very high, if so, whether additional customs duty is proposed to be withdrawn to make it available to consumer on competitive prices and the decision taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In general, indigenous prices have gone up. Similarly international prices have also gone up in the corresponding period. Keeping in view the interest of both oil seed growers and consumers, the Government has decided not to make any change in the customs duty rate on edible oil for the present.

Smuggling of Narcotics

2741. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that smuggling of hashish (Narcotic) from Nepal to India has increased enormously during the last three years;

(b) if so, whether Government have investigated the reasons behind this; and

(c) if so, the conclusions of the investigation and the steps taken to check smuggling and apprehend the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Although smuggling is a clandestine activity, the trend of seizures of hashish from Nepal to India, as reported by the different Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, does not show any significant variation.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Non-Functional ATM in PHA

2742. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Bank of India ATM installed in the Parliament House Annexe is non-functional often due to which

Members of Parliament and other account holders are facing hardships;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the ATM is outdated due to which problem occurs very frequently; and;

(d) if so, by when the machine will be rectified for normal operation of new machine will be installed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) SBI has reported that the ATM at the Sansadiya Soudh Branch, New Delhi was installed in 1997 and is working satisfactorily. However, SBI has decided to replace it and install an additional ATM of latest model shortly.

Board of Directors of Banks

2743. SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are still following a policy of appointing people to the Board of Directors of Banks;

(b) what is the purpose of this policy;

(c) whether it is a fact that such directors are not contributing anything by way of better responsibility in Bank Management; and

(d) the steps proposed to review the need to appoint unqualified and unsuitable people to the Boards of Directors of nationalised banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) Appointment of directors on the board of public sector banks are made in accordance with the qualifications and procedure prescribed in the relevant statutes. The general superintendence, direction and management of public sector banks vests with their respective Boards. The Directors appointed by the Government possess the necessary qualifications and do contribute towards the effective functioning of the banks.