

(a) whether any assessment has been made by the Tobacco Board regarding the quantity of bidi tobacco being produced in various States especially in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the annual production of bidi tobacco in the country especially in Gujarat ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) According to information obtained from the Directorate of Tobacco Development, Madras, about 184.5 Million Kgs. of bidi tobacco was produced during 1994-95 in India. out of which about 148 million kgs. were produced in the State of Gujarat.

[English]

#### Duplicate Share Certificates

536. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES :  
SHRI CHITTA BASU :  
SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV :  
SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD :  
SHRI SRIKANTA JENA :  
DR. S.P. YADAV :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have completed investigation into the printing of duplicate share certificates by Reliance Industries and some other companies;

(b) if so, the findings of the inspection/investigation; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in regard thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PRASAD PAL) : (a) Securities and Exchange Board of India assisted by officials from the Department of Company Affairs has been conducting an inspection of the books, records and other related documents of M/s Reliance Consultancy Services Ltd. (RCS) in connection with issue of duplicate share certificates of Reliance Industries Ltd. The Interim Report on this inspection has been submitted on 12.1.1996. This inspection is still continuing.

(b) The main findings of the inspection as contained in the Interim Report are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Securities and Exchange Board of India has recently appointed an Enquiry Officer under the Regulations on Registrar to an Issue and Share Transfer Agents for the purpose of issuing a show cause notice to Reliance Consultancy Services Ltd. It is also examining the desirability of making amendments to these Regulations in order to provide for an arms-length relationship between a company and its Registrar. Department of Company Affairs has also initiated appropriate follow-up action on the findings contained in the Interim Report.

#### STATEMENT

(i) The Interim inspection report has revealed that some duplicate share certificates had been issued

while the original share certificates were in existence which fact was very much in the knowledge of RCS.

(ii) The inspection report also reveals that the provisions of Section 113 of the Companies Act may have been violated.

(iii) The interim inspection report also reveals that the company has carried out reversal of the entries whereby there has been rectification of the register of members. It appears that the provisions of section 111 (4) (a) of the Companies Act have been violated.

#### Rates of Custom Duty

[Translation]

537. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :  
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the rates of custom duty have been modified recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) since when these modified rates would be effective ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) to (c) Rates of customs duty are sometimes modified through exemption notifications, which are issued having regard to facts, circumstances, and the public interest involved in each case. However, modification of duty rates is effected within the tariff rates and copies of notifications, along with Explanatory Memoranda, are placed on the Table of both the Houses.

[English]

#### Employment Exchanges

538. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps recently to ensure effective working of employment exchanges in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have issued guidelines to State Governments in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G.VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (d) The Employment Exchanges function under the direct control of the respective State Govts./U.T. Administrations. The main activities of these offices are registration and placement of job-seekers. Common policies and standard procedures for the functioning of the Employment Exchanges are laid down in the national Employment Service Manual (NESM). In order to ensure that the laid down common policies and standard procedures are followed by the Employment Exchanges, their joint evaluations, on sample basis, are conducted by the officers