

Tax Evasion in Corporate Sector

680. DR. DATTA SAMANT :
SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Massive Tax Evasion by Corporate Sector—20,000 Cr. Loot" appearing in the 'Blitz' dated 24 June, 1989;

(b) if so, whether Government have made enquiries into the matter; and

(c) the findings thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The source of the news-item is stated to be a study conducted by the Finance Ministry's Tax Research Unit. However, no such study has been carried out by the Tax Research Unit in the recent past. There is, therefore, no basis for the presumption that the evasion of indirect taxes in the year 1988-89 is anywhere near Rs. 20,000 crores. The Government therefore does not propose to take any action on the said news-item.

Loans given by Scheduled Commercial Banks to Weaker Sections

681. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of the scheduled commercial banks loans outstanding against the weaker sections at the end of 1988; and

(b) the break-up of such loans given for self-employment in commercial business sector or service sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) The amount of outstanding advances of Scheduled Commercial banks against weaker sections in priority sectors as on the last Friday of June, 1987 (latest available) was Rs. 6400.4 crores. However, the outstanding advances of public sector banks to weaker sections as on the last Friday of December 1988 was Rs. 8297.9 crores.

(b) Data reporting system does not provide occupation-wise break-up of advances for self-employment. However, the total amount of outstanding advances of Scheduled Commercial Banks given to the artisans, village and cottage industries and to the beneficiaries of Self-Employment Programme for Urban Poor (SEPUP) within weaker sections stood at Rs. 478.0 crores and Rs. 42.9 crores respectively as on the last Friday of June, 1987.

Fresh registration of Political Parties with Election Commission

682. SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the political parties in the country of National Stature which have amended their constitutions for fresh registration with the Election Commission;

(b) whether the Election Commission has allotted symbols to these parties for the purpose of contesting elections; and

(c) if so, the symbols thus allotted?