

(a) whether it is a fact that the wholesale dealers of edible oils, oil-seeds and food articles in Delhi are evading Central sales tax, income tax and other taxes on large scale;

(b) whether it is also a fact that goods are smuggled out to other States without paying sales tax due to which that State also has to bear the loss of revenue; and

(c) if so, the number of such cases detected by Government during the last three years, the details of the persons found involved and the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (c). No such large scale evasion of sales tax, income tax and other taxes has come to the notice of the concerned departments. However, the Income-tax Department conducted searches in 29 cases of Dry Fruit dealers of Delhi, in November, 1988 and prima facie unaccounted assets worth Rs. 24.43 lakhs were seized.

Setting up of T.V. Relay Centre at Saptsharang Garh, Maharashtra

1870. SHRI HARI SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up any Television Relay Centre at Saptsharang Garh in Varna region of Nasik district to meet the demand of the people of this region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and
(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) to (c). There are at present three low power TV transmitters one each at Nasik, Malegaon and Manmad functioning

in Nasik district. With the commissioning of high power (10KW) TV transmitter under implementation at Aurangabad, the service in the Nasik district is expected to improve further. However, Saptsharang Garh is not expected to be covered because of intervening distance. It is Government's endeavour to extend TV service to uncovered areas as soon as possible, but this can be achieved only in a phased manner depending upon availability of funds for this purpose under future plans for TV expansion in the country.

[English]

FERA Companies

1871. SHRI E.S.M. PAKEER MOHAMED: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the companies holding the FERA status;

(b) the total value of the Foreign Exchange involved in these companies;

(c) whether Government have received any application from FERA companies to increase their FERA limits; and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether any of these FERA companies have violated the laws and if so, the action Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

[Translation]

Development of Tourist Centre in Kanpur

1872. SHRI KESHRI LAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to develop Bittor or any other place in Kanpur as a tourist centre; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Department of Tourism have sanctioned construction of wayside amenities at Fatehpur Roshnai and Maharajpur in Kanpur District.

Parity in Pay Scales In All Banks

1873. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is disparity in the pay scales of employees/ officers in different public sector banks;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to introduce parity in the pay scales of the employees/officers of all the banks?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (c). The pay scales of workmen employees in all the public sector banks are identical. In the case of officers in Scale V and above, however, there are slight differentials in the pay scales between State Bank of India vis-a-vis the other public sector banks due to historical reasons. The revised pay scales for such officers in the State Bank of India have not so far been approved.

Recovery of Agricultural Loans from Marginal Farmers

1874. SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the nationalised banks/cooperative banks have started a large scale campaign to realise agricultural loans from marginal farmers;

(b) whether the campaign has been started as per the Government's directives; and

(c) if not, whether Government, under its declared policy, propose to issue directives to banks thereby saving marginal farmers from ruin?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (c). Banks are required to take normal steps to recover their loans, including agricultural loans after the amounts fall due. Recoveries are made in respect of all categories of farmers, irrespective of whether they are marginal farmers and big farmers. Since this is a normal banking activity, Government does not issue any directives in this regard.

Imports and Exports During December, January and February 1990

1875. SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD SHASTRI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the value of total imports and exports (in crores of Rupees) in December, 1989 and January, February, 1990 main itemwise and country-wise; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government to reduce imports?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) The value of total imports and exports during December, 1989 and January, 1990 are as under: