

yarns was increased by 5% which has resulted in increased availability of Modvat credit and thereby reducing the contribution from polyester and nylon filament yarn to the extent of increase in excise duty on inputs. The extension of Modvat for capital goods used in the manufacture of yarns will also have the effect of reducing the revenue realisation from synthetic filament yarn.

Loan Facility to NRIs

1502. SHRI KAMLA MISHRA MADHUKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- whether Government provide loan facilities to those NRIs who invest capital in the country;
- if so, the details thereof; and
- the loan facilities provided to NRIs by the banks and financial institutions during the last three years and the current year, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

Beedi Workers

1503. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- the amount of cess collected from the beedi factories of Maharashtra during the last three years; and
- the amount spent on the welfare of beedi workers during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND HOLDING ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) Statement of Collection of Cess on beedis and expenditure incurred on welfare of Beedi Workers in Maharashtra, during the three years.

Year	Cess Collection	Expenditure
	(Rs. in thousands)	
1991-92	9173	8270
1992-93	9454	9344
1993-94	9238	13741

Construction of Airport at Bharuch

1504. SHRI CHANDUBHAI DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

- whether the Government of Gujarat has sent any proposal to construct an airport at Bharuch; and
- if so, the decision taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No, Sir.

- Does not arise.

[English]

Export of Tea to Russia

1505. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- whether repeated complaints have been made by the Russian importers about inferior quality of tea being supplied by India;
- whether the Indian Embassy in Russia pointed out in August, 1993 that the tea industry should take the issue of quality of tea being exported more seriously; and
- if so, the steps the Government propose to take to enforce strict quality standards for testing of samples of tea prior to issue of export licenses?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Complaints were received by the Tea Board in 1993 against a few Indian exporters for export of sub-standard and inferior quality teas to Russia and some of the CIS countries.

(b) Indian Embassy in Russia had sent reports in June, 1993 recommending quality control of tea exported to Russia.

(c) In order to enforce strict quality control in exports of tea to Russia, exporters have been advised to obtain quality certificates from SGS, India or any other agency recognised by the Russian importers before obtaining shipment licenses for export to Russia/CIS countries. Exports to Russia under the debt repayment mechanism have also been brought under compulsory preshipment inspection.

[Translation]

Training to Afghanistan Pilots

1506. SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

- whether the Government of Afghanistan have requested the Government of India to impart training to their pilots;
- if so, whether the Government of India have acceded to the request;
- if so, the conditions of training and also the period of training; and
- the time by which the training is likely to be imparted?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a): Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Government of Afghanistan have been assured that the request would be considered keeping in

view requirement of our students and availability of aircraft at Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi.

World Bank Aid for Solar Energy

1507. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH:
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have entered into any agreement with the World Bank for promotion of solar energy in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the World Bank has imposed a condition that the agreement is liable to be cancelled if the solar energy produced is not used in the rural sector; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The World Bank has provided a line of credit of US\$ 55 million to the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency. The objective of the World Bank assistance is to encourage the establishment of sustainable product supply, delivery, after sale service and financial mechanisms to support marketing of photovoltaic products on a commercial scales in the country.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Concessions to Blind Persons

1508. SHRI C.P. MUDALA GIRIYAPPA:
SHRI K.G. SHIVAPPA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether blind persons get some concession for travelling by air;

(b) whether there is a persistent demand by the associations of handicapped persons in the country to extend this concession to the companions also; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Due to high cost of operations, such concession to companions is not possible.

Closure of Branches of Central Bank of India

1509. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of the Central Bank of India proposed to be closed down;

(b) the circumstances leading to the closure;

(c) the number of employees likely to be affected as a result thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to avert the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has intimated that while allocating the recapitalisation funds for 1993-94, it was agreed to by Central Bank that they would close down 10 unviable/loss making branches in urban/metropolitan areas and convert into satellite office 50 rural/semi-rural/semi-urban branches. However, the Bank had not closed any loss making branch during the year 1993-94. The Bank had only converted three loss making rural branches into satellite offices.

Garment Export Entitlement Allotment Policy

1510. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any request from exporters seeking amendments in the provisions of the Garment Export Entitlement Allotment Policy (Quota Policy), 1994-96;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (c) Government have received various representations from the trade, including some conflicting representations on different aspects of the Long Term Garment Export Entitlement Allotment Policy (1994-96). These representations, *inter alia* relate to permitting direct transfer between registered exporters without the medium of Registered Quota Agents, increasing the base period of calculation of Past Performance Entitlement (PPE) and Non Quota Exporters Entitlement (NQE) from one year to two years, increasing the number of options under NQE, earmarking certain percentage of annual level for the First Come First Served (FCFS) System, change in the definition of new Manufacture—Exporters, restricting transfer of entitlements during June—September period to 50% of the entitlements etc. Government have considered all the representations and have accepted the recommendations made in some of them, for implementation.

Euro Issue Guidelines

1511. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have revised Euro Issue Guidelines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):