

In so far as export to Russia is concerned, in order to enforce strict quality control, exports of tea to Russia under the debt repayment mechanism have been brought under compulsory preshipment inspection by the Export Inspection Council.

(e) Steps taken to boost exports of tea include promotional campaigns through Tea Board's offices abroad. These consist of (i) participation in trade fairs/exhibitions; (ii) media campaign to increase consumer awareness towards various unique characteristics of Indian teas; (iii) media campaign to popularise Indian tea through the Tea Board marketing symbol; and (iv) support to various foreign brands containing Indian tea. A part of the expenditure incurred by the importers for promotional campaigns is met from the Tea Board's budget. Tea Board has also undertaken Darjeeling and Assam Logo campaign in U.K. alongwith brand promotion schemes abroad to popularise classic Indian teas.

[Translation]

#### Import Duty on Pulses

4038. SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA :

DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been increase in the prices of imported pulses in view of the recent devaluation of rupee in terms of dollar;

(b) if so, the details of the pulses for which increase has been registered;

(c) whether the Government propose to reduce the custom duty applicable on the import thereof;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) to (e) Import of pulses has been placed under OGL at a reduced import duty of 5 per cent. The landed cost of pulses varies depending upon the trend in the international prices as also the exchange rate changes. Movement in prices of pulses are monitored by the Wholesale Price Index (Base; 1981-82) which has only one set of Index numbers for prices of pulses irrespective of whether imported or domestically produced. Besides, no import of pulses has been undertaken on Government account and hence it is not possible to report the impact of exchange rate changes on the landed cost of pulses.

[English]

#### Action Taken on J.P.C. Report

4039. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of cases filed in connection with the Securities Scam following the presentation of the report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee thereon;

(b) the status of the stage of investigation/prosecution of these cases;

(c) the number of cases yet to be filed on the basis of the recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee; and

(d) the time by which those cases are expected to be filed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) to (d) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) have reported that they have registered 65 cases against various persons involved in irregularities in securities transactions. Investigation has been completed in 62 cases and charge-sheets have been filed in Courts in 21 cases. CBI have also reported that the registration of cases and enquiries is an ongoing process in the CBI. As and when complaints are received from the Banks, PSUs, Ministries etc. based on the JPC Report, the material is examined and appropriate actions is taken.

#### Beedi Workers

4040. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the steps being taken by the Union Government to assist the beedi workers of Nizamabad district in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether any fresh welfare programme has been formulated for their welfare; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) Various welfare schemes in the fields of Health, Housing Education and Recreation are being implemented on an accelerated basis for the welfare of beedi workers under the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund.

(b) and (c) The following schemes have been introduced during 1995-96 for the welfare of beedi workers of the country including in Nizamabad district:-

(i) Payment of incentive/financial assistance of Rs.1/ - per day to female children of beedi workers on the basis of attendance in schools;

(ii) Payment of incentives to children of beedi workers on passing final University/Board examinations from Class X onwards; and

(iii) Establishment of Community Halls in beedi workers housing colonies alongwith a colour T.V. set.

#### Foreign Loan

4041. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have sought more loan

from the international financial institutions for 1995-96;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the projects for which the loan has been sought?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) and (b) The India Development Forum Meeting was held on 29th and 30th June, 1995 in Paris to discuss aid requirements of the country. The meeting of bilateral and multilateral donors took place on 29th June, 1995 where India's development partners pledged \$ 6.9 billion as official development assistance for the year 1995-96, out of which international financial institutions e.g. ADB, EC, European Inv. Bank IBRD/IDA, IFAD, Nordic Inv. Bank, UN System and IFC pledged \$ 4.3 billion compared to US \$ 3.7 billion pledged by the same agencies last year.

(c) The details of Projects for which the aid is likely to be utilised will be known after aid negotiations with each donor agency are finalised.

#### Bank Loan to Farmers

4042. SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHONSLE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that farmers have to run after revenue and bank officers for many days to get their loan sanctioned and have to spend a lot of money in the process;

(b) whether the Government are also aware that in certain States each farmer has been given a Pass Book, which, on the basis of his assets, indicates the limit upto which loans could be granted to him;

(c) whether the Government propose to streamline the process by issuing similar pass books to farmers in other States also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that during the course of its studies conducted to monitor the disbursal of assistance to borrowers, it was observed that there was inordinate delay in sanction and disbursement of IRDP and other loans in a few districts of various States. The aspect of undue delay is looked into by NABARD during the inspections of Cooperative Banks and Regional Rural Banks and are commented upon for corrective action.

(b) to (d) NABARD has reported that some State Governments have taken steps to provide for issue of "pass book" to farmers. Several Public Sector Banks have introduced Agricultural Credit Cards to farmers with good track record to enable them to secure production credit instantly. This card dispenses with repeated procedural formalities such as making applications,

furnishing of land record certificates and documentation. In addition, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued detailed guidelines to commercial banks for simplifying and liberalising lending procedures to farmers. Some of the important aspects are : (i) All loan applications upto a credit limit of Rs.25,000/- should be disposed off within a fortnight and those over Rs.25,000/- within 8 to 9 weeks; (ii) credit proposals from weaker sections are to be cleared promptly; (iii) Appropriate sanctioning powers have also been delegated to the rural branch managers so that majority of loan applications are sanctioned at branch level itself; (iv) Relaxed margin and security norms are applicable to small loans.

#### Issue of Provident Fund Account Statement in Bank of Indore

4043. SHRI RAM BADAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Provident Fund Department of the State Bank of Indore has not delivered the Statements of P.F. accounts pertaining to the period 1994-95 to the employees of the Bank all over the country so far;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial steps taken or proposed to be taken to ensure timely delivery of the statements to the employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) to (c) State Bank of Indore has reported that the Provident Fund Statements upto 31st March, 1995 have already been despatched to the employees concerned on 25th November, 1995.

#### In-House Facility for Export of Coir Products

4044. SHRI V.S. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the In-house stuffing facility extended to the export of Coir has been withdrawn w.e.f. October 1, 1995;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Kerala Government has demanded its restoration; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d) In order to regulate stuffing of containers in party's premises, the facility of stuffing containers in premises of exporters/ Customs House Agents/Warehouses was withdrawn with effect from 1.10.1995. However, in view of various representations from trade and industry, the facility subject to certain conditions was restored on 9.10.1995.