

(d) The cost escalation in these delayed projects comes to about 16.18%.

[English]

Unofficial Trade With Pakistan

2719. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :
SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appeared in *Statesman* dated June 14, 1996 under captioned "Concern over unofficial trade with Pakistan";

(b) whether the unofficial trade between India and Pakistan is several times higher than the official trade; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check the unofficial trade between both the countries and to boost official trade with that country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is not possible to make any reliable assessment of the volume of unofficial trade.

(c) Trade between India and Pakistan is hampered by Pakistan Government's restrictive policy on imports from India. Pakistan allows imports from India against a unilateral list of 573 items, many of which do not have a real export potential. While India has granted Most Favoured National (MFN) status to Pakistan. Pakistan is vet to accord a similar status to India in contravention of its GATT/WTO obligations. Expansion of Trade with Pakistan will depend mainly on Pakistan granting MFN status to India.

IDBI Assistance to Assam

2720. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications for grant of financial assistance received by the Industrial Development Bank of India from the entrepreneurs of Assam during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of applications sanctioned and rejected during the above period; and

(c) the details of financial assistance disbursed by IDBI to industries in the State during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The number of applications received, sanctioned and rejected by the Industrial Development

Bank of India (IDBI) from entrepreneurs of Assam during the last three years is as under :

Year	Applications Received	Applications Sanctioned	Applications Rejected
1993-94	14	10	3
1994-95	15	10	-
1995-96	21	17	-

IDBI has reported that incomplete applications and those in which the promoters did not furnish the requisite details were treated as closed. These applications would however be reopened by IDBI as and when promoters furnish the requisite information.

(c) The details of assistance disbursed by IDBI to industries in Assam during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 are as under :

(Rs. Crores)

Year	Amount Disbursed
1993-94	14.70
1994-95	22.53
1995-96	43.80

Task Force to Evolve Standardised Documents for Tendering

2721. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry of Finance and the World Bank had get up a task force to evolve standardised documents for tendering;

(b) if so, whether the task force has since submitted its report; and

(c) if so, the details of the recommendations made therein and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). Following the revised procurement guidelines of the World Bank that came into effect from January 1995, the Task Force, as reconstituted in 1995 by this Ministry, is examining the Bank's standard bidding documents with a view to their appropriate indigenisation for use in the World Bank aided projects.

Bank Branches in Kerala

2722. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of branches of scheduled banks operating in the country during 1995-96 and 1994-95, separately;

(b) the total number of branches of nationalised banks in the country during the same period;

(c) the number of branches of scheduled banks and the nationalised banks in Kerala during the said period;

(d) the total amount of deposits made during the said period in these banks all over India and in Kerala, separately; and

(e) the deposit-credit ratio of these banks in the State during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). The total number of branches of Scheduled Commercial Banks and Nationalised banks operating in the country and in Kerala as on 31st March 1995 and March 1996 as reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is given below:-

	March 1995	March 1996
<i>Scheduled Commercial Banks</i>		
All India	62,067	64,458
Kerala	3,009	3,151
<i>Nationalised Banks</i>		
All India	30,633	32,175
Kerala	970	1,022

(d) and (e). RBI has further reported that aggregate deposit and Credit : Deposit Ratio of all Scheduled Commercial Banks and Nationalised Banks, both All India and In Kerala as on the last Friday of March 1995 and March 1996 are given below:

(Amount in Rs. Lakhs)			
		March 1995	March 1996
<i>All Scheduled Commercial Banks</i>			
All India	: Deposits	375863.97	426073.37
	: C:D Ratio	59.2	61.9
Kerala	: Deposits	17040.77	19792.83
	: C:D Ratio	44.9	45.4
<i>Nationalised Banks</i>			
All India	: Deposits	214051.09	237512.64
	: C:D Ratio	52.3	54.2
Kerala	: Deposits	6468.53	7132.05
	: C:D Ratio	36.8	40.0

Abolition of Sales Tax

2723. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGRAWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representation in June, 1996 from All India Trade Confederation and also from some Members of Parliament under caption "Abolition of Sales Tax and imposition of additional excise duty in its place as has

been done in case of textiles, tobacco, paper and sugar earlier by the Central Government";

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) A representation dated 19.6.96 was received from the Federation of All India Traders' Associations on the said subject.

(b) and (c). No proposal to charge additional excise duty in lieu of sales tax on all commodities is under consideration of the Government. Any such proposal has to be mooted by the States.

BHEL Office in Kerala

2724. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up an office of the BHEL in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Monetary Autonomy/Economic Freedom to States

2725. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any demand for granting monetary autonomy/economic freedom to the States; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The Centre-State financial relationship is governed by the Constitution of India. The States have a separate Consolidated Fund, contingency fund and a Public Account of their own. Subject to various provisions of the constitution, States are financially autonomous and are accountable to their respective State legislatures.

However, the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission on Centre-State Relations relating to the legislative, administrative and financial matters, etc. are being considered by the Sub-Committee appointed by the Inter-State Council. The Sub-committee has so far considered 190 out of 247 recommendations. The remaining recommendations are yet to be finalised by the Sub-Committee. After consideration by the Sub-Committee, these recommendations will be placed before the Inter-State council. The view of the Inter-State Council, thereafter will be submitted to the Government for its consideration and decision.