

(e) whether it is better for the Government to use FERA companies in manufacturing activities in core sector rather than allow them to engage in trading activities?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the absence of the fuller details of the 'study' to which has been made in the news item, it is difficult to comment on the conclusions drawn.

(c) and (d) Once a company reduces non-resident equity to 40 per cent, it ceases to be a FERA company and becomes an 'Indian' company. Hence data on their activities are not kept under FERA. If information is required about any particular company or companies, it can be collected from other sources and supplied.

(e) Companies having more than 40 per cent non-resident equity may undertake new activities in the core sector only. The FERA process is already complete and only those companies which were predominantly engaged in core sector and exports were allowed to retain 51 per cent non-resident equity.

Cases of FERA Companies

6293. SHRI T. M. SAWANT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many cases of FERA companies still remain to be decided for the resting point of foreign equity-holdings, besides drug companies;

(b) have the cases of M/s. Siemens and Union Carbide been recently decided, permitting them to hold foreign shareholding of 51 per cent;

(c) is it a fact that in the cases of Siemens, they have been given time upto 1982 for changing the character of their company, to adhere to the FERA guidelines for holdings 51 per cent foreign shareholding; and

(d) have there been any deviations from the specified FERA guidelines while deciding the cases of M/s. Siemens and Union Carbide under FERA?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) A statement is attached.

(b) Yes, Sir. The application of M/s. Siemens was decided in March, 1980 and that of M/s. Union Carbide Ltd. in May, 1980.

(c) One year time has been allowed to enable the company to restructure its activities and to shed trading activities of products manufactured by inter-connected companies.

(d) No, Sir.

Statement

1. Assam Oil Co. Ltd., Assam.
2. Burmah Oil Co. (India) Trading Ltd., Assam.
3. CASTROL LTD., Bombay.
4. Oil India Ltd., Calcutta.
5. Tata Dilworth Secord Meaghar & Associates.

N.B. The first four cases are pending since negotiations are under way with the companies concerned regarding takeover or other arrangements. The last case was received late and is being processed.

All India Service Test 1978 of Central Bank of India

6294. SHRI T. NAGARATNAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of general, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Employees appeared in the written All India Services Test 1978 of the Central Bank of India;

(b) the number of general, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes employees who qualified in the Written Examination according to the First List;