

(d) the time by which an agreement is likely to be finalised in this regard and the full details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN) : (a) No, Sir,

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) While considering proposals for induction of equipment in the Defence Forces, Government explore all available sources of supply of equipment or technology and take decisions based on techno-economic considerations. This is a continuous process.

It will not be in public interest to disclose details in this regard.

U. K. Companies who Sought Shares of Reliance Textiles.

5207. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) which were the companies in U.K. that purchased shares of Reliance Textiles in India ;

(b) whether these companies were duly registered, who were its directors and share holders and what was their capital ;

(c) whether these companies were fictitious companies ; and

(d) if so, what action is taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The names of the companies in U. K. who purchased shares of Reliance Textiles in India are as follows :

- i) Tricot Investment Ltd.
- ii) Victor Investment Ltd.
- iii) Gain Ford Investments Ltd.
- iv) Thornton Investment Ltd.

v) Roman Investment Ltd.

vi) Bamford Investment Ltd.

vii) Corbin Investments Ltd.

viii) Rockside Investments Ltd.

ix) Jota Investments Ltd.

x) Crocodile Investments Ltd. and

xi) Fiasco Investments Ltd.

(b) These companies are duly incorporated under the U.K. laws. Details regarding the names of share-holders and the capital of these companies are furnished to the RBI in strictest confidence and cannot be discussed.

(c) and (d) The foreign companies which invested in shares of M/s Reliance Textile Industries Ltd. are companies incorporated in foreign countries under laws of those countries where Indian laws have no jurisdiction. The Reserve Bank of India can only rely on the statements furnished by these companies or their auditors and has no other means to verify whether these companies were fictitious companies.

Partial Exemption of Chimneys From Excise Duty

5208. SHRI D.B. SHINGDA :

SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that glass articles like chimneys for lanterns and bed lamps, have been partially exempted from excise duty depending on the annual turnover ;

(b) when all the units producing chimneys come under small-scale industries, reasons why one is discriminated from the other;

(c) whether such a partial exemption does not lead to unhealthy competition among the small scale units ; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to remove the criterion of annual turnover granting total exemption to chimneys which are only the poor man's requirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PATTABHI RAMARAO) : (a) to (c) Glass chimneys for lamps and lanterns are chargeable to a concessional rate of 10.5% ad valorem as against the tariff rate 16.5% ad valorem. There is a further concession to chimneys manufactured in the small scale sector under the general scheme of exemption for small scale units, whose value of clearances did not exceed Rs. 25 lakhs in the preceding financial year. In terms of this exemption, an eligible small scale manufacturer can, in a financial year, clear goods upto a value of Rs. 7.5 lakhs free of duty and at a concessional rate of 75% of the effective rate of duty on clearances in excess of Rs. 7.5 lakhs but up to Rs. 25 lakhs. All such small scale units producing chimneys, if they fulfil the conditions of the general scheme of exemption, are eligible to avail of the exemption.

(d) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government at present. Removal of the criterion of annual turnover in the general scheme of exemption would not be in the interest of genuine small scale units.

**Delhi Airport Approach Road Contract
Given to Private Firm**

5209. SHRI R.B. MAVANI :
KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI SINGH :
SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM :
SHRI KUMBHA RAM ARYA :

will the minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) Whether it is a fact that International Airports Authority of India (IAAI) has instituted an enquiry into how Bharat Construction Company, a private firm has been selected for construction of an approach road to the new International complex at Delhi Airport ;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof and the details thereof ;

(c) what is the total contract of the said road ;

(d) how many tenders have been received ;

(e) whose was the lowest tender ;

(f) whether the said tenders were sent to the Finance Department for Scrutiny ;

(g) if so, the report and recommendation made by Finance Ministry ; and

(h) the persons and officials involved in the said matter and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN) : (a) to (e) Tenders were invited for the construction of an approach road to the new International Terminal Complex at Delhi Airport, to which three companies including Bharat Construction Company responded. The contract was of the value of Rs. 88,91,365. A condition offering a rebate of 3.5% suspected to have been inserted unauthorisedly after the opening of the tenders was noticed in the tender submitted by M/s. Bharat Construction Company which would have made it the lowest. An enquiry was conducted which revealed that the tender documents had been tempered with after they had been opened and declared. Hence, the inserted condition was treated as not being part of the tender and the work was awarded to M/s. Sri Ram Sayal & Sons, whose tender was found to be the lowest.

(f) and (g) Yes, Sir. The proposal was scrutinised by the Finance Department of the International Airports Authority of India. As the work was within the powers of the Works Advisory Board of the International Airports Authority of India, no reference to Finance Ministry was required.