

(a) whether the Government have since examined the proposal of Rothmans of U.K. for setting up of a cigarette industry in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have imposed any conditions on the Company for export obligation; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (d) The proposal of M/s. Rothmans of Pall Mall (International) Ltd., U.K. for setting up a 100% wholly owned subsidiary is under consideration of Foreign Investment Promotion Board, Deptt. of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Ministry of Industry.

Export of Tyres

3203. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the countries to which tyres are being exported at present;

(b) the total value of the tyres exported to those countries during the last three years;

(c) whether the tyre industry has set any higher target for the export during the coming years; and

(d) if so, the details of the projection made till the end of 2000?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Major countries to which various types of tyres & tubes are being exported are Afghanistan, Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, Egypt, Germany, Ghana, Iran, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Mexico, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Turkey, U.S.A., U.A.E., U.K., Vietnam, Zimbabwe and Uganda.

(b) The export details of various types of tyres & tubes for the last three years are follows:

(Rs. in Crores)		
1995-96	1996-97	1997-98 (Estimated)
798.42	865.60	986.20

(Sources: Chemicals & Allied Products Export Promotion Council (Capexil))

(c) and (d) Capexil has provisionally projected an export target of Rs. 1210 crores for 1999-2000.

[Translation]

Revival of Sick Mills

3204. SHRI D.S. AHIRE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of N.T.C. mills proposed to be kept running in Maharashtra;

(b) the opinion of the Government about the N.T.C. mills in Urban and Rural areas of the State;

(c) the extent of amount the Government propose to allocate for the modernisation of N.T.C. mills in the State, mill-wise;

(d) the future planning of the Government for the daily or casual workers working in State N.T.C. mills for the last many years;

(e) whether the Government propose to implement Gujarat pattern for N.T.C. mills in Maharashtra; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (f) On the basis of a unit-wise viability study made by NTC, Government is considering a revised turn around strategy for the viable subsidiaries of NTC alongwith with the viable mills under them, keeping in view the BIFR norm of the network of these mills turning positive within the period prescribed by BIFR. The interest of the workers will be kept in view in the revival plan.

[English]

Collection of Revenue from Cigarette Industry

3205. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA:
SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN:
DR. RAVI MALLU:
DR. SANJAY SINGH:
SHRIMATI BHAVNA KARDAM DAVE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate revenue collected by the Union Government from the cigarette industry during the last two years;

(b) whether the Government have made any assessment about the loss of revenue as a result of the entry of multi-national companies with 100% FDI in this sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and whether the Government propose to conduct such assessment; and

(e) if so, the time by which such assessment is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) Amount of excise duty collected on cigarettes during the last two years is as given below:

Year	Excise duty amount
1996-97	Rs. 3982 crore
1997-98	Rs. 4454 crore (Provisional)

Statistics relating to the collection of ir. e tax are not maintained in an industry-wise manner.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

(d) Presently, there is no proposal under consideration for any duty/tax concessions for cigarette industry. Therefore, no such assessment is required.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

Shortage of Staff in Banks

3206. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of staff in nationalised banks, particularly in the Central Bank of India;

(b) if so, the bank-wise details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to recruit more staff in these banks?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) No shortage of staff has been reported

in nationalised banks except Indian Overseas Bank, Central Bank of India, Bank of Maharashtra, Vijaya Bank & Corporation Bank. These banks have taken steps to make J the shortage through direct recruitments/promotions.

Central Bank of India has reported that overall there is no shortage of staff but in certain States particularly Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and North Bengal there is shortfall in clerical cadre. As regards subordinate staff, the bank has shortages particularly in the categories of armed guards, drivers and sub-staff for newly opened branches. The main reason for the shortage in certain areas is due to difficulty in inter-station mobility of clerks & sub-staff. The bank has approached the RBI with a request to grant permission for recruitment of need based staff particularly for the above mentioned States.

Survival of A.F.T. Mills, Pondicherry

3207. SHRI S. ARUMUGHAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether an expert committee had submitted its report on August 5, 1994 about the feasibility at A.F.T. Mills at Pondicherry and the suggestions for the survival of the A.F.T. Mills;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have made arrangements for the necessary funds of 50 crores of rupees for the modernisation of A.F.T. Mills either by bank loans or any other means;

(d) whether the Government will issue the order for C.B.I. inquiry on the malpractices and mismanagement in the above mills; and

(e) the details of the steps taken by the Government to survive the Mill?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (e) Information is being collected from the State Government.

Income Tax Payers

3208. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI:
SHRI RAMA CHANDRA MALLICK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Income Tax payers in Delhi;