

(i) Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion-Chairman.

(ii) Ministry of Finance

(iii) Ministry of Commerce

(iv) Ministry of External Affairs
(External Relations)

(v) Department of Revenue

(vi) Central Board of Excise & Customs
(Chairman)

(vii) Department of Small Scale Industries & Agro
and Rural Industries.

In addition to the above. Secretaries of Ministries/Departments to which the proposal relates are specially invited to participate in the deliberations.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. No specific protest of this nature has been received.

Non-Banking Financial Companies

3294. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL:
SHRI D.S. AHIRE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the RBI Act, 1934 to regulate the Non-Banking Financial Companies;

(b) if so, the details of proposed amendments;

(c) by when the Act is likely to be amended; and

(d) the extent to which the amended Act likely to help the investors?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (d) The Task Force on Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), which has recently submitted its report, has suggested a number of legislative measures to improve the regulatory framework for NBFCs. These, *inter-alia*, include appointment of depositors' grievance redressal committees, giving the status of a court decree to the orders of such authorities and statutorily creating a first charge on liquid assets of NBFCs in favour of depositors. These recommendations have been accepted by Government. Reserve Bank of India has been requested to furnish detailed legislative proposals in this regard.

Trade Deficit

3295. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL:
SHRI JAYARAMA I.M. SHETTY:
DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the trade deficit from April to September this year have doubled as compared to the corresponding period during the previous year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the target of exports of various items could not be achieved during the same period; and

(d) if so, the factors responsible for such a shortfall in exports and steps taken to bridge the gap of trade deficit?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) As per the provisional data from Directorate General Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S), trade deficit during April-September, 1998-99, has increased to US\$ 4991 million as compared to US\$ 2496 million during the same period last year.

(b) The trade deficit has increased both due to a slowdown in export growth and to increase in imports especially that of gold & silver.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The exports were affected due to a general slow down in World trade and especially recession in many countries in south East Asia and Japan, domestic supply constraints in some sectors such as agricultural commodities and barriers in markets of European Union (EU). A number of steps have been taken to promote exports which include lowering of interest rates on export credit, reduction in transaction cost through decentralisation and simplification of procedures and various other measures as enumerated in the Exim Policy. Steps have also been taken to promote exports through multilateral and bilateral initiatives, identification of thrust sectors and focus regions.

Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme

3296. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to introduce Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme (VDIS) again to unearth huge black money in the country; and