

Pending Road Accidents Claims

161. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number and amount of claims pending with National Insurance Co. Ltd. relating to road accident in Maharashtra for the last three years;

(b) the details of claims made and settled each year and their pending position;

(c) the amount of compensation paid against the claims settled during the said period, year-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for speedy settlement of such cases ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Excise Duty on Rosin

162. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have removed excise Duty on Rosin produced by units without use of power vide Notification No. 28/96 dated 11.9.96 and thus providing relief to hundreds of tiny cottage units;

(b) if so, whether these units would still, continue to be under excise Net as Turpentine oil received (12% to 13%) in the same process along with Rosin is not included in the Notification, perhaps inadvertently;

(c) whether this has been brought to the notice of the Government requesting for suitable amendment in the said notification to provide intended relief to the large number of cottage units producing Rosin without use of power; and

(d) the details of action taken in this regard to provide relief to the cottage industrial units operating without power ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Government have received representations for exemption from excise duty on Turpentine oil, manufactured without the aid of power, and distilled out alongwith Rosin. The representations are being examined as part of the proposals for the Budget, 1997-98.

RBI's Guidelines for Opening of Branches

163. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA :
DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India issued guidelines about a year back to public sector banks for opening branches of their banks all over the country for every 12,000 people;

(b) if so, the number of bank branches opened in Assam by Canara Bank, Union Bank of India, Oriental Bank of Commerce and Corporation Bank since those guidelines were issued;

(c) whether the Bank Employees Committee of Assam Jatiyatabadi Yuba Chatra Parishad is agitating over non-expansion of banking network in economically backward state like Assam, thereby defeating the very idea with which banks were nationalised in 1969; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The aim of Branch Licensing Policy, 1985-90 of Reserve Bank of India was to achieve a population coverage of 17,000 (1981 census) per bank office in rural/semi-urban areas as also to eliminate wide spatial gaps in the availability of banking facilities so that a rural branch was available within a distance of 10 kms. As on the last Friday of March 1996, the average population per bank office for the country is 14,500.

(b) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Loan Provided to Orissa Under PMRY

164. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DASS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications sanctioned for providing loan under P.M.R.Y. during 1996-97 in Orissa particularly in Kalahandi District;

(b) the number of applicants out of them who have been provided loan under the scheme;

(c) whether some of the applicants whose applications were sanctioned have been denied loans;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which loan is likely to be provided to them ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (e) As reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) the loans sanctioned and disbursed under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) during 1996-97 as at the end of December, 1996 in Orissa were as indicated below :

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Period	Applications Sanctioned		Applications Disbursed	
	No.	Amount	No.	Amount
As at end of December, 1996	1771	1283.06	844	380.53

Reserve Bank of India has further reported that the data reporting system does not generate information district-wise. The RBI has further reported that no specific instances of

loans sanctioned but denied disbursement have been reported to them.

[Translation]

New Pension Scheme to Widows of Allahabad Bank

165. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Allahabad Bank has implemented the new pension scheme and started paying pension to widows of its employees;

(b) if so, the reasons for not providing pension to the dependent widows of the employees of the bank who retired from the year 1989 to 1990 under the new pension scheme;

(c) the branch-wise number of applications received by the authorities particularly of Faizabad, Sultanpur and Kanpur branches of Allahabad Bank from the dependents of the retired employees in this regard during the last six months; and

(d) the reasons for not clearing these applications so far ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and to the extent available, will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Free Licence Policy

166. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has proposed a new free licensing regime for the sugar industry;

(b) whether the proposal has been approved by the Government ;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith criteria worked out for giving approval to new sugar project;

(d) whether his Ministry has also felt that the current level of 1700 TCD is uneconomical and inflates costs;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Indian Sugar Mills Association has expressed its view against the policy; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (g) At present there are 14 industries under compulsory licensing. The Government has taken up review of licensing of industries under compulsory licensing. The sugar industry is one of these industries. The Government has not yet taken any decision in this regard. However, the Government has recently issued guidelines for considering

applications for industrial licences for sugar factories, the details are enclosed as Statement. A representation from the Indian Sugar Mills Association has been received against the new guidelines issued by the Government. They have raised objections regarding the distance between a new sugar unit and an existing sugar unit which has been reduced from 25 kms to 15 kms.

Statement

Government of India
Ministry of Industry, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion

PRESS NOTE NO 1
(1997 SERIES)

Subject : *Guidelines for considering applications for industrial licences for sugar factories*

The Government of India have reviewed the guidelines for licensing of new and expansion of existing sugar factories issued vide this Ministry's Press Note No. 16 (1991) dated 8.11.91. The existing guidelines need revision in order to take into account the changes in the business scenario following economic liberalisation, the need for introducing simplified and transparent procedures and the technological changes that have taken place in the sugar industry over the years. In supersession of the aforesaid Press Note, Government have now formulated the following revised guidelines :

- (i) New Sugar factories will continue to be licensed for a minimum economic capacity of 2500 tonnes cane crushed per day (TCD). There will not be any maximum limit on such capacity.
- (ii) Preference in licensing would be given to the proposals involving larger capacity, modern technology and development of integrated complexes producing value added products and co-generation of power.
- (iii) For the consideration of application, a revenue district will be taken as the unit. In case more than one application is received for any unit of operation, other things being equal, priority will be given to the application received earlier.
- (iv) Licences for new sugar factories will be issued subject to the condition that the distance between the proposed new sugar factory and an existing/ already licensed sugar factory should be not less than 15 kilometres.
- (v) The basic criterion for grant of licences for new sugar units would be cane availability or the potential for the development of sugarcane or both.
- (vi) Other things being equal, preference in licensing will be given to the proposals from the Growers' Cooperative Societies. However, industrial licence issued to such a cooperative cannot be transferred to any other entity.