

'Golden Hand Shake Scheme' for nationalised banks.

Changes in System of Customs Duty Collection

1732. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Revenue Service Association have suggested some structural changes in the present system of customs duty collection;

(b) if so, the salient features of these suggestions; and

(c) the number of these suggestions accepted by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Certain suggestions have been received from the Indian Revenue Service (Customs and Central Excise) Association on simplification of customs procedures.

(b) The salient features of these suggestions are as follows:

(a) Introduction of Green Channel for cargo clearance;

(b) Provision for issue of Advance Classification Advices;

(c) Provision for a system of Advance Assessment of Bills of Entry;

(d) Introduction of Self-Assessment procedure;

(e) Selective testing of samples and use of testing facilities of reputed private laboratories;

(f) Review and weeding out of tariff notifications;

(g) Staggering of assessment work on the appraisers table;

(h) Shifting of some of the apperaisalment work to docks and warehouses;

(i) Early computerisation of various technical areas in the Custom Houses and docks including processing of documents on the computer;

(j) Improvement of the testing facilities; and

(k) Strengthening of the intelligence and investigative set up.

(c) Suggestions have been received on 31st January, 1992. Discussions have been initiated already with Collectors. Further discussions are due to take place before decisions are taken.

[*Translation*]

Foreign Debt

1733. SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been considerable increase in the foreign debt during the financial year 1991-92;

(b) if so, the details of the debt at present;

(c) whether any time bound plan has been prepared by the Government to repay this debt;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and