

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HAGDE) : (a) Number of growers registered in Karnataka during 1996-97 and 1997-98 are as follows:-

1996-97	1997-98
14655	18366

(b) to (d) The total authorised quantity of FCV tobacco for Karnataka for the year 1997-98 was 31.20 Million Kgs. against which the approximate quantity sold on the auction platforms in Karnataka was about 45.25 Million Kgs. The excess quantity of tobacco permitted to be sold from registered growers was to the extent of about 3.55 Million Kgs. and the rest was from the unregistered growers. In order to enable the tobacco farmers to sell their tobacco produce on the auction platforms of the Tobacco Board, the operation of section 10 of the Tobacco Board Act, 1975 was suspended in the State of Karnataka for a period upto 31st January, 1998 vide this Ministry's notification dated 13th January, 1998.

Some of the steps taken by Tobacco Board to stop unauthorised cultivation of FCV tobacco in Karnataka are:

- The Board's production policy is widely publicised in all the leading newspapers besides broadcasting the same through A.I.R.
- The farmers who are not eligible for grant of registration (as per the criteria laid down by the Registration Committee) are advised not to take up tobacco cultivation through press and radio.
- Campaigns are organised at the village level to educate the growers on the World tobacco production situation and the need to adhere to production regulations and to plant tobacco in the authorised/registered areas only and not to authorisedly cultivate tobacco.
- Identifying the farmers constructing barns unauthorisedly/cultivating tobacco unauthorisedly and serving notices on them for such unauthorised activities and informing State Governments of the changes in the land use.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. Eight auction platforms have been established in the State of Karnataka for sale of tobacco.

World Bank Assistance for Drinking Water Projects in Maharashtra

2496. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal regarding World Bank assistance for drinking water projects in Maharashtra, particularly at Nasik, is under consideration of the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of the proposal ?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Yes. There are three proposals but none of them relate particularly to Nasik

(b) The three proposals are i) Maharashtra Water Supply & Sewerage Project Stage-II, costing Rs. 863 crores, ii) Bombay IV Middle Vaitarna Water Supply Project costing Rs. 570 crores, iii) Integrated Rural Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation Project for 11 districts of Maharashtra costing Rs. 900 crores.

(c) All the aforementioned three proposals have been posed to the World Bank.

SC/ST Employees in India Trade Promotion Organisation

2497. SHRI VIJAY SINGH SOY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number and percentage of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe employees in India Trade Promotion Organisation, category-wise;

(b) the details of SC/ST employees promoted during the last three years, category-wise, and

(c) the details of the SC/ST employees of ITPO selected for foreign deputation during each of the last three years category-wise and the criteria adopted for their selection ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) No. and percentage of SC/ST employees in ITPO category-wise is as follows:-

Group	No of SC Employees	% of SC	No. of ST Employees	% of ST
A	32	17.02	8	4.25
B	21	20.00	5	4.76
C	92	19.49	15	3.17
D	204	39.45	5	0.96

(b) SC/ST employees of ITPO promoted during the last 3 years, category wise:-

Group	1995		1996		1997	
	SC	ST	SC	ST	SC	ST
A	1	2	3	1	5	-
B	1	-	-	-	2	1
C	-	-	6	-	1	2
D	-	-	1	-	-	1

(c) The criteria for selection for overseas deputation comprise seniority-cumoverall merit of the employees. The nomination is made keeping in view the requirement and size of each event.

The details of SC/ST employees of ITPO sent on foreign deputation for organising participation in fairs/exhibitions abroad during the last three years are given below :-

Group	1995-96		1996-97		1997-98	
	SC	ST	SC	ST	SC	ST
A	6	2	11	3	7	2
B	3	-	-	2	1	1
C	-	-	-	-	-	-
D	-	-	-	-	-	-

Income Tax Settlement Commission

2498. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the aggregate amount of Income-tax and interest (if adjudicated at maximum rates) involved in the petitions which are pending, after admission, before the Income-tax Settlement Commission; and

(b) the number of cases and the aggregate amount of tax, interest and penalties involved in them, which are pending for over five years with the Income-tax Settlement Commission though no stay has been given by any court for further proceedings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE & INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARATHANAN) : (a) On admission of an application for settlement, the entire tax on additional income declared before the Settlement Commission, becomes payable by the applicant within 35 days of the receipt of the admission order u/s 245 D(1) of the Income-tax Act. This tax, if not paid within the stipulated period of 35 days, is recovered by the Assessing Officer in Income-tax, Deptt. in accordance with the powers under the Income-tax Act, alongwith simple interest @ 15% per annum on the amount remaining unpaid from the date of expiry of the period of 35 days. Further tax/interest, if any, becomes payable only on passing of final order of settlement under Section 245D(4) of Income-tax Act. Thus, in respect of applications pending for final settlement after admission, the further tax/interest involved can be known only when final orders of settlement u/s 245D(4) are passed.

(b) 405 cases are pending (as on 1.5.1998) with the Settlement Commission, for more than five years, after admission. The tax/interest /penalty involved in these cases

will be known only when final orders of Settlement under Section 245D(4) are passed.

WTO Centre

2499. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Institute of Foreign Trade propose to set up a World Trade Organisation Centre in order to study various aspects of the new international trade regime and establish a data base on latest trends;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be set up;

(c) whether a similar organisation is also proposed to be set up to assist the hundred percent export- oriented units as a measure to boost the export; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposed centre would be headed by an eminent expert in the field of international trade. The activities of the centre would be as follows:-

(i) To conduct research on specific policy related issues assigned by MOC from time to time.

(ii) To provide all necessary documents, research work relating to WTO negotiations.

(iii) To act as a storehouse and documentation centre for information/data pertaining to WTO related issues.

(iv) To conduct short term courses, orientation courses and awareness programmes for familiarising members of the business community with WTO related issues.

(v) To bring out publications and handbooks for use of trade and industry.

(vi) Any other task assigned by the Govt., relating to WTO matters.

The centre is expected to become operational during the year 1998-99.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Schemes by STC & MMTC

2500. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Trading Corporation and the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation have formulated