

[English]

Stagnation Among Stenographers

7465. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Stenographers Grade-III (Pay scale Rs. 1200-2040) appointed during the years 1969 to 1973 in the Income Tax Department, remaining in the same grade as on date;

(b) whether a committee was set up by the Central Board of Direct Taxes for removing stagnation in various cadres including Stenographers;

(c) whether the Committee has submitted its recommendations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF THE FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) The number of Stenographers Grade-III (Pay scale Rs. 1200-2040) appointed during the years 1969 to 1973 in the Income Tax Department, remaining in the same grade as on date is 1237. This does not include information regarding region of Chief Commissioner of Income Tax (Administration), Patiala and the charge of Commissioner of Income Tax, Shillong.

(b) The Directorate of Organisation and Management Services (Income Tax) has conducted a study regarding the stagnation in various cadres including Stenographers, in the Income Tax Department. This report is being considered by the Standing Cadre Review Committee headed by the Director General of Income Tax (Administration) for suggesting ways and means for removing stagnation in various cadres including those of Stenographers.

(c) and (d). Recommendations of the Standing Cadre Review Committee are still awaited.

Special Hill Allowance to Central Government Employees Posted in Himachal Pradesh

7466. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government employees posted in Himachal Pradesh have been making any demand for increasing special Hill Allowances and providing them more facilities such as for the education of their children, housing facilities etc; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF THE FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b). Certain representations have been received in this Ministry for payment of Hill Compensatory Allowance to Central Government employees at places in Himachal Pradesh, where the State Government has granted Compensatory allowance in respect of their employees. The proposal is under consideration in consultation with the Government of Himachal Pradesh.

No representation has been received in regard to education facilities. Information in regard to receipt of representations, if any received, for more housing facilities in Himachal Pradesh is being collected.

Export of Bidi

7467. SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the foreign exchange earned from the export of 'bidi' and tobacco respectively during the last three years; and

(b) whether Government have explored the possibility of increasing the export of 'bidi'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI AR-ANGIL SREEDHARAN): (a) The foreign exchange earned from the port of bidis and bidi tobacco during the last three years:

<i>Qty: in tonnes</i>			<i>Val: in Rs. /lakhs</i>	
<i>Export of bidis</i>			<i>Export bidi tobacco in the form of flakes</i>	
	<i>Qty.</i>	<i>Val.</i>	<i>Qty.</i>	<i>Val.</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
1987-88	268	224.31	158.0	13.27
1988-89	462	210.39	6.2	1.35
1989-90	1478	290.20	131.8	19.92

(b) In order to explore the possibility of increasing the export of tobacco products, including bidis, the Tobacco Board had organised market surveys through the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi in the Middle East and Asian Countries and also in the USA, Canada and Select West European countries. A delegation was also sponsored by the Tobacco Board to select Middle East countries. Various types of bidis are also displayed at the fairs and exhibitions held abroad for promoting export of bidis.

Duty Exemption on Imported Medicines

7468. SHRI KALPNATH SONKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have granted customs duty exemption to certain imported medicines during the year 1990-91; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b). Government have not

granted exemption from customs duty during the financial year 1990-91 upto now to any imported medicine.

Set Back to Leather Exports to West Germany

7469. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether leather export to West Germany has received a set back;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it has affected adversely the Indian leather industry; and

(d) the steps taken to rectify the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI AR-ANGIL SREEDHARAN): (a) to (d). No, Sir. Leather and Leather Product exports to the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) during