

the security and protection of Income tax personnel undertaking search and seizure operations?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (c). Combating tax evasion is a continuous exercise. The Government takes necessary legislative and administrative measures as deemed appropriate from time to time to curb generation, growth the use of black money. Some of the measures taken by the Income-tax Department are as under:—

- (i) Systematic survey operations,
- (ii) Search and seizure operations in appropriate cases,
- (iii) Verification of information by Central Information Branches in a planned manner,
- (iv) In-depth investigation in a selected number of cases, and
- (v) Pre-emptive purchase of immovable property by the Central Government under the provisions of Chapter XXC of the Income-tax Act, 1961 in certain notified cities.

In the recent past the incidents of organised violence against Income-tax search and survey parties have been on the increase. Following a serious incident of violent attack on a search party in Uttar Pradesh in September, 1989, the Central Government has sought assistance from all the State Governments to provide adequate and timely armed police protection to the Income-tax personnel deployed on search and survey duty so that the efforts of the Government in combating tax evasion are not slackened

Supply of Beedi Leaves and Tobacco Powder to Karnataka Beedi Workers

807. SHRI D.M. PUTTE GOWDA: Will

the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the supply of 'Beedi' leaves and tobacco powder to Karnataka Beedi workers has been reduced by 75 per cent and this has hampered the export as well as livelihood of workers; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to ease the situation in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU):

(a) About 80% of the tendu leaf requirement of Karnataka bidi units is met from Madhya Pradesh, 20% from Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. There is no shortage of tobacco powder for manufacture of bidis. However, it appears that increase in price of tendu leaves has resulted in price hike of bidis and has affected exports.

(b) It is understood that the Government of Madhya Pradesh is considering review of the tendu leaf policy.

Setting up of a National Court of appeal

808. SHRI D.M. PUTTE GOWDA:
SHRI RAM SAGAR (Saidpur):

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up national court of appeal to decongest the apex judicial body as suggested by Supreme Court,

(b) if so, the time by which it will be constituted, and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) No such proposal

is under the consideration of the Government now.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Board for Top Level Bank Appointment

809. SHRI D.M. PUTTE GOWDA:
SHRI K.S. RAO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up a Board for top level appointments in nationalised banks and other financial institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the proposed Board would be set up;

(c) the details of the top level posts in nationalised banks and other financial institutions lying vacant as on 1st December, 1989; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to fill up such posts?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b). Government have set up in January, 1990 an Appointments Board under the Chairmanship of Governor, Reserve Bank of India to make recommendations to the Government on appointment of wholetime Directors and Non Official Directors on the Boards of Directors of Public Sector Banks and Financial Institutions. The other Members of the Board are Finance Secretary, Secretary and the Chief Economic Adviser, Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India, Chairman, State Bank of India and Additional Secretary (Banking) as Member Secretary. In respect of Financial Institutions, Chairman, Industrial Development Bank of India is a Member of the Board in place of Chairman, State Bank of India.

(c) and (d). As on 1st December, 1989 the posts of Chairman, State Bank of India, Executive Directors of Bank of India, Canara Bank and Bank of Maharashtra, Managing Director, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and Chairman-cum-Managing Director of National Insurance Company Limited were vacant. All the above vacancies except the Chairman-cum-Managing Director, National Insurance Company Limited and Executive Director, Bank of Maharashtra have since been filled up. Government have already initiated the process for filling up of the above two vacancies.

Development Plan of Bihar Tourism Development Corporation

810. SHRI DHARMESH PRASAD VARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bihar Tourism Development Corporation has chalked out and submitted to Union Government a plan to step its activities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of central assistance proposed to be provided for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) to (c). No, Sir. The projects/schemes received from the State Governments are considered by the Central Department of Tourism for financial assistance and not those received from the State Tourism Development Corporations.

Construction of Akashvani Bhavan at Osmanabad, Maharashtra

811. SHRI ARVIND TULSHIRAM KAMBLE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state: