

essentially needed within the country. Export Control is exercised in respect of items whose supply position demands that their exports should be regulated in the larger interests of the country.

Cases pending before Income Tax Tribunal

9428. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cases pending before the Income Tax Tribunal as on 31 December, 1990; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to clear the backlog expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) The total number of cases pending before the Income-tax Appellate Tribunal as on 31st December, 1989 was 1,66,998.

(b) A number of Members have recently joined the Tribunal and a few more are expected to join shortly. Further, recruitment for the remaining vacant posts is also under way. The monetary ceiling for the disposal of cases by Single Members of the Tribunal has been enhanced to Rupees one lakh from Rs. 40,000/-.

Child Marriages in Rajasthan

9429. SHRI DILIP SINGH JU DEO: Will the Minister of LAW JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Union Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "The day of child marriages" appearing in the 'Indian Express', New Delhi on 29 April 1990 according to which thou-

sands of child marriages were solemnised in various parts of Rajasthan on the festival of "Akhateej" on the 27 April, 1990 in utter violation of the Sharda Act; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take in this regard and to ensure the enforcement of the Sharda Act in letter and spirit and discourage such social evil of child marriages?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A number of steps, including stress on education, have been taken by the Government for educating people about the consequence of the evil practice of child marriage through mass media, by involving voluntary organisations in the task and by other measures. These include radio programmes, exhibiting cinema slides, posters and short documentary films on T.V., group discussion with rural women, etc. The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 was amended in 1978 with a view to provide that offences under the Act shall be cognizable for the purpose of investigation and for all matters other than matters referred to in section 42 of the Cr. P.C. 1973 (arrest on refusal to give name and residence) and the arrest of a person without a warrant of or without an order of the magistrate. The practice of child marriage has been deeply embedded among certain sections of the society and any legislation, however stringent its provisions may be, would not achieve the object of stopping this practice. It is only through social and economic upliftment of these sections that the practice can be eradicated completely.

Investment in Multi-Storeyed Commercial Complexes

9430. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given on 6 April, 1990 to