

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIDIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. It was held in June, 1990.

(b) A statement indicating the issues discussed is given below. The Conference does not take any decisions. It makes recommendations only.

STATEMENT

The following issues were discussed by the Conference:-

1. Difficulties in implementing the new assessment procedure.
2. Selection of cases for scrutiny and improving the quality of assessments.
3. Administrative and functional problems in searches and expediting disposal of search assessments.
4. Problems relating to surveys under sections 133A(1) and 133B of the Income-tax Act.
5. Measures to curb ostentatious and elitist consumption.
6. Problems relating to litigation under direct taxes.
7. Communication and control in the Income-tax Department.
8. Monitoring of advance-tax and TDS collections and TDS certificates in form No. 16.
9. Improving performance in the sphere of vigilance.
10. Public grievances, public relations, staff, staff grievances and staff welfare.

Publicity on Customs, Central Excise, Gold Control Schemes Etc.

324. SHRI MANGARAJ MALLIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which the requirement of Publicity on Customs, Central Excise, Gold Central, narcotics, drug abuse and reward schemes are being met both regionally and at the National level;

(b) whether advertisements are confined to the National dailies and the outdoor publicity campaigns through bus panels, headings etc., to metropolitan cities only and not in the States; and

(c) the details of such publicity work undertaken in Orissa during the last two years and proposed for the coming year?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b). Publicity is carried out through Doordarshan, national and regional Newspapers, bus panels, hoardings and kiosks etc. Bus panels, hoardings etc. are also displayed in certain states besides the metropolitan towns of Bombay, Madras, Calcutta and Delhi.

(c) Recently, the publicity advertisement entitled "Are you travelling abroad," has been released for publications in the 'Sun Times', an English daily of Bhubaneswar and 'Praja Tantra' of Cuttack and 'Pragativadi' of Bhubaneswar, which are Oriya language news papers.

NRI Investment in Gujarat

325. SHRI PRAKASH KOKO BRAHMBHATT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level committee meeting was held at Gandhinagar to review the progress of NRI investment in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) will form a consortium in US for investment in industrial projects in Gujarat;

(d) the projects for which NRIs have agreed to assist the Gujarat state,

(e) whether Union Government have agreed to the proposed move in Gujarat State; and

(f) if so, details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH):

(a) Government is not aware of any such meetings.

(b) to (f). Do not arise.

Joint Ventures with USSR

326. SHRI PRAKASH KOKO BRAHMBHATT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had proposed a number of measures for setting up Joint Ventures in USSR;

(b) if so, the measures being considered jointly with the USSR;

(c) whether any concrete proposals have been finalised in this regard;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDAS PATEL):

(a) Government have formulated guidelines for approving Indian participation in the equity of joint ventures abroad, including joint ventures in USSR. The Indian and Soviet Governments have set up a Working Group on developing new forms of economic co-operation, including promotion of joint ventures, etc., in both countries.

(b) After the last meeting of the Working Group, a Protocol was signed on 16th April, 1990 in New Delhi in which, inter-alia, progress of cooperation in the field of setting up of joint ventures in USSR and India was reviewed and measures for resolving problems/constraints in the development of new forms of economic cooperation discussed.

(c) and (d). Twenty-seven proposals for setting up Indian joint ventures in Soviet Union had been registered in USSR upto April, 1990. fourteen specific proposals have been approved by the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Joint Ventures abroad till November, 1990. Of these, two joint ventures are in operation.

(e) Does not arise.

Demand and Production of Mica

327. SHRI A. K. ROY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the production, internal consumption and export of mica during the last three years both in quantity and in rupee value, year-wise;

(b) the demand of scrap, processed mica and manufactured items of mica, both internally and in export market, item-wise; year-wise; and