

met from fresh borrowings. Interest payments are, however, met from revenue receipts. Interest payments by the Central Government constituted 49.6 per cent of its total revenue receipts during 1994-95 (RE). Interest payments, by pre-empting a major share of the revenue receipts, do affect the spending on other items of expenditure. But since there is no one to one relationship between the various items of receipt and expenditure, it is not possible to quantify the effect on any item(s) of expenditure.

EMIGRATION

***166. Shri Rajnath Sonkar Shastri :** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that some agencies engaged in taking people out of this country for works abroad are duping a large number of people of their savings;

(b) if so, the number of such cases which came to the notice of the Government during the last three years; and

(c) the action taken to nab all such agencies and to safeguard the interests of the people?

The Minister of Labour (Shri P. A. Sangma) : (a) and (b) During the year 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95, 242 complaints were received against the Recruiting Agents registered with the Ministry of Labour.

(c) Complaints against Registered Recruiting Agents are enquired into with the help of police authorities and the concerned Indian Mission abroad and action is taken, as appropriate, in each case in accordance with the provisions of the Emigration Act, 1983 and Rules framed thereunder. Complaints against un-registered recruiting agents are referred to the concerned police authorities for investigation. Complaints against foreign employers are taken up with the Indian Missions abroad. In addition, departmental action is taken against erring agents in terms of suspension and cancellation of licenses.

EXPORT OF TEA BANNED IN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

***167. Shri Sarat Pattanayak :** Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state :

(a) whether the tea export has suffered due to ban on import of Indian tea by European Countries for higher residue of pesticides; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to resolve the issue and to increase tea exports to those countries?

The Minister of State of the Ministry of Commerce (Shri P. Chidambaram) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no ban on import of Indian teas by European countries on account of higher level of pesticide residue. The question of resolving the issue therefore does not arise. However, Tea industry has been advised to take steps to ensure that regulations with regard to maximum residue level of pesticides in tea as laid down by importing

countries including member countries of European Union, Japan etc. are scrupulously followed in respect of exports to those countries. Steps have also been taken to increase exports of Indian tea to European countries including, inter-alia, (i) participation in major trade fairs/exhibitions abroad; (ii) media campaigns to increase consumer awareness about speciality of Indian tea and (iii) campaigns to popularise the Tea Board marketing symbol which stands for pure Indian tea. Tea Board has also undertaken brand promotion schemes in a number of countries to promote specific classic Indian teas in those markets and has launched Darjeeling and Assam Logo Campaigns in U.K.

BANK BRANCHES FOR HOUSING FINANCE

***168. Prof. Susanta Chakraborty :** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state :

(a) whether the R.B.I. has advised the banks to designate one of their branches in each district for housing-finance exclusively;

(b) if, so the details thereof and the progress made in this regard so far; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken against the defaulting banks in this regard?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Manmohan Singh) : (a) to (c) As per extant guidelines of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the banks may designate one of their existing branches in each district for the purpose of housing finance, in addition to their normal banking functions. As this did not involve setting up of a new branch as such, no follow up action by RBI in this regard was envisaged. No action is proposed to be taken by RBI against banks which might not have designated any branch in a particular district for the purpose of housing finance due to factors such as lack of business, existence of branch of another banks/financial institution doing the business of housing finance and also taking into consideration the fact that most of their branches are doing housing finance business.

UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG MALE WORKERS

***169. Shri Harin Pathak :** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that according to a recent report of the International Labour Organisation 22 per cent of all male workers in India were under-employed or unemployed and that the figure is rising; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to curb this trend and generate employment and what are the details thereof ?

The Minister of Labour (Shri P. A. Sangma) : (a) and (b) In the ILO Report titled 'World Employment 1995' (page 64), it is stated that in India 22 per cent of all male workers declared themselves available for additional work in the late 1980s, and this figure has been rising.

This report does not specifically point out the source of this information.