

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Anti-Smuggling agencies of the Central Government and State Governments are alert to detect and prevent all smuggling including smuggling of RDX. Steps taken to prevent smuggling of RDX include intensive patrolling of coastal areas and close coordination among various enforcement agencies of Central Government and State Governments to act in a concentrated manner to thwart such attempts.

Friendly Service to the Income Tax Payers

4195. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have issued fresh guidelines to the Income Tax Department to provide timely and customer friendly service to the tax payers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) and (b) Providing of timely and customer friendly service to the tax payers is a continuous process. The Central Board of Direct Taxes has from time to time issued guidelines and directions to the field authorities in respect of prompt issue of refunds, attending to rectification/appeal effect proceedings, polite and courteous conduct particularly during survey and search proceedings, attending to grievances of the tax payers etc.

Each Commissioner of Income-tax Charge has the Office of Public Relation Officer which provides assistance to the tax payers. In addition, Grievance Cells have been set up in CBDT as well as in Chief Commissioners' regions.

Export of Lichi

4196. SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of Lichi exported and the foreign exchange earned therefor during 1995, country-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of Lichi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The quantity of Lichi exported and the foreign exchange earned country-wise during 1995 (April to June) are as under :

	Qty. in kg.	Value in Rs.
	Qty	Value
Kenya	48	2964
Kuwait	300	18203
Switzerland	500	42269
	848	63436

(Source DGCI&S Calcutta)

(b) Steps taken for enhancing the exports of fresh fruits including lichi are :-

- (i) Efforts have been made to establish post-harvest facilities for processing lichies for exports. Exports from Australia and France were also invited for advise on the post-harvest management of this fruit.
- (ii) Providing financial assistance for development of infrastructure such as refrigerated/insulated vans and setting up of pre-cooling/cold storage units;
- (iii) Providing financial assistance for export promotion and market development;
- (iv) Sending delegations of exporters to lichi growing countries like Madagascar to expose them to the practices of cultivation, post-harvest management and exports of lichi.
- (v) Participation in International fairs/exhibitions.
- (vi) Air Freight subsidy for export of fresh lichi for the period from 1.9.1995 to 31.3.1996.
- (vii) Supply of quality planting material and training of formers under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on intergrated development of tropical, temperate and Arid Zone fruits (including lichi).

Board of Directors of S.B.I.

4197. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Guwahati circle of the State Bank of India has been operating without a Board of Directors for the last several years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the full time Directors are likely to be appointed there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Members nominated earlier on the Guwahati Local Board of State Bank of India have either resigned from the Board or ceased to be Members on the Board on their demise.

(c) Government have initiated action for filling up these vacancies.

Development of Places of Pilgrimage

4198. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the amount received from abroad for the development of the places of pilgrimage during each of the last three years, separately and the names of the Countries from which amount has been received;