

FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) and (b) Commercial banks provide loans and working capital advances to industrial units including those manufacturing chemicals and chemical products. The data reporting system of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) does not generate information in the manner asked for. Based on the quarterly data available with RBI, the limits sanctioned and outstanding thereof in respect of borrowers enjoying aggregate credit limits of Rs. 5 crore and above from the entire banking system to industrial units manufacturing chemicals and chemical products as on September 1992, 1993 and 1994 (latest available) were as under :

	No. of borrowers (Rs. crores)	Limits sanctioned (Rs. crores)	Limits Outstanding (Rs. crores)
September 1992	189	5,566	4,040
September 1993	213	7,453	4,451
September 1994	238	9,117	4,764

(c) RBI has reported that guidelines issued by it stipulate maximum time-frames for processing of loan applications/proposals. RBI has not received any complaint from units manufacturing chemicals and chemical products regarding delay in processing of their loan applications/proposals.

(d) The data reporting system of RBI does not generate such information.

(e) and (f) RBI has reported that its existing monitoring system reviews flow of credit of macro level for the entire industry sector.

[English]

International Airport at Devanahalli

533. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the government have since taken over the IAF Airport at Yelahanka to set up an International Airport at Devanahalli near Bangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the construction of the proposed airport has been given to Consortium of Tatas; and

(d) if so, the details of Government control over the proposed international Airport ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Government of India has given its no objection for construction of airport of International standards at Bangalore in Karnataka with the help of private parties. Karnataka Government have selected a consortium led by TATA Industries to undertake

construction of the project on build-own-operate basis. The regulatory functions including that of Air Traffic Management will be exercised by the Airports Authority of India (AAI)/Director General of Civil Aviation. AAI will also provide technical assistance.

Price of Gold

534. SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA KAUR (DEEPA) :
SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA :
SHRI TARA SINGH :
SHRI JANARDAN MISRA :
SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been spurt in the price of Gold recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose of check the rise in prices of Gold; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) and (b) There has been a rise in the domestic price of Gold in recent months. The monthly average price of Gold in the Bombay market during the last six months, as reported by reserve Bank of India, was as follows :-

Monthly average price of Gold (Rs. per 10 gm.)

Month/Year	Bombay
September, 1995	4777
October, 1995	4956
November, 1995	5039
December, 1995	5058
January, 1996	5301
February, 1996*	5541

*(Average up to 15th February, 1996)

Gold prices in India are influenced by international prices since the domestic production of Gold is negligible as compared to the demand. The current rise in Gold prices in India is mainly due to rise in international prices, depreciation in the exchange rate of rupee vis-a-vis US dollar and higher demand due to marriage season.

(c) and (d) Measures taken to keep the domestic price of Gold under check include permission to import gold upto 5kg by Indian passengers returning to India on payment of custom duty under the liberalised scheme of gold import and permitting gold import under special import licences.

[Translation]

Assessment on Bidi Tobacco Production by Tobacco Board

535. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any assessment has been made by the Tobacco Board regarding the quantity of bidi tobacco being produced in various States especially in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the annual production of bidi tobacco in the country especially in Gujarat ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) According to information obtained from the Directorate of Tobacco Development, Madras, about 184.5 Million Kgs. of bidi tobacco was produced during 1994-95 in India. out of which about 148 million kgs. were produced in the State of Gujarat.

[English]

Duplicate Share Certificates

536. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES :
SHRI CHITTA BASU :
SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV :
SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD :
SHRI SRIKANTA JENA :
DR. S.P. YADAV :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have completed investigation into the printing of duplicate share certificates by Reliance Industries and some other companies;

(b) if so, the findings of the inspection/investigation; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in regard thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PRASAD PAL) : (a) Securities and Exchange Board of India assisted by officials from the Department of Company Affairs has been conducting an inspection of the books, records and other related documents of M/s Reliance Consultancy Services Ltd. (RCS) in connection with issue of duplicate share certificates of Reliance Industries Ltd. The Interim Report on this inspection has been submitted on 12.1.1996. This inspection is still continuing.

(b) The main findings of the inspection as contained in the Interim Report are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Securities and Exchange Board of India has recently appointed an Enquiry Officer under the Regulations on Registrar to an Issue and Share Transfer Agents for the purpose of issuing a show cause notice to Reliance Consultancy Services Ltd. It is also examining the desirability of making amendments to these Regulations in order to provide for an arms-length relationship between a company and its Registrar. Department of Company Affairs has also initiated appropriate follow-up action on the findings contained in the Interim Report.

STATEMENT

(i) The Interim inspection report has revealed that some duplicate share certificates had been issued

while the original share certificates were in existence which fact was very much in the knowledge of RCS.

(ii) The inspection report also reveals that the provisions of Section 113 of the Companies Act may have been violated.

(iii) The interim inspection report also reveals that the company has carried out reversal of the entries whereby there has been rectification of the register of members. It appears that the provisions of section 111 (4) (a) of the Companies Act have been violated.

Rates of Custom Duty

[Translation]

537. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the rates of custom duty have been modified recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) since when these modified rates would be effective ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) to (c) Rates of customs duty are sometimes modified through exemption notifications, which are issued having regard to facts, circumstances, and the public interest involved in each case. However, modification of duty rates is effected within the tariff rates and copies of notifications, along with Explanatory Memoranda, are placed on the Table of both the Houses.

[English]

Employment Exchanges

538. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps recently to ensure effective working of employment exchanges in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have issued guidelines to State Governments in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G.VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (d) The Employment Exchanges function under the direct control of the respective State Govts./U.T. Administrations. The main activities of these offices are registration and placement of job-seekers. Common policies and standard procedures for the functioning of the Employment Exchanges are laid down in the national Employment Service Manual (NESM). In order to ensure that the laid down common policies and standard procedures are followed by the Employment Exchanges, their joint evaluations, on sample basis, are conducted by the officers