

an employee opting for voluntary retirement scheme would receive ex-gratia payment of 45 days emoluments (Pay+DA) for each completed year of service or the balance of service remaining at the time of his separation multiplied by his monthly emoluments, whichever is less. This would be in addition to the various terminal benefits and statutory dues like provident fund, gratuity, encashment of Earned leave, one months/three months notice pay (as per the conditions of service applicable to him) etc. payable to him.

(c) According to available information during 1994-95, 29082 employees opted for voluntary retirement schemes in 159 Central public sector undertakings.

(d) and (e) As already mentioned above the scheme was specially designed for the Central public sector undertakings.

Misuse of NRE Accounts

609. SHRI V. SREENIVASH PRASAD :
SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the non-resident external accounts are being misused for currency smuggling;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the measures taken to check such cases and to plug all loopholes in the rules and regulations that tend to give scope for such smuggling; and

(d) the number of currency smuggling cases that have come to light during each of the last three years and the action taken on each such cases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) to (d) The Enforcement Directorate has not come across any case of misuse of non-resident external (NRE) accounts for currency smuggling. However, during the last 2-3 years, the Directorate has detected some cases involving alleged misuse of NRE accounts for depositing foreign exchange acquired/purchased in India and for issue of cheques/drafts to Indian residents purportedly as gifts.

[Translation]

Turnover of I.T.D.C. Duty Shops

610. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the turnover of the I.T.D.C. duty shops during each of the last three years;

(b) the steps taken to enhance the turnover of the said shops during the ensuing years; and

(c) the expected increase in the turnover on account of the said steps taken ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) The information is given as under :

Year	Turnover (Rs. in crores)
1992-93	40.67
1993-94	46.55
1994-95	61.47

(b) and (c) The measures taken/being taken to enhance turnover of duty free shops inter alia include enlargement of assortments of various merchandising, promotional activities/advertisement and participation in travel fairs, aggressive marketing & sales strategies, appointment of foreign consultant and expansion of duty free shops at existing and new international airports. The business turnover of duty free shops is expected to increase 20% every year.

I.T. Camp Offices in premises of Large Employers

611. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Income Tax Department has recently mooted any proposal to offer large employers, Corporation, Public Sector Undertakings large, private sector companies the facility of having Income Tax premises on an experimental basis;

(b) if so, the details and the objectives thereof;

(c) whether to start with the large employers have been identified in Delhi region for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Central Board of Direct Taxes has not mooted any such proposal. However, the field authorities keep examining various proposals for providing better services to the tax payers.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) in view of (c) above, does not arise.

Cash Reserve Ratio of Banks

612. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether in order to relieve the cash-crunch and curb the call-money rates, the Government have decided to cut the Cash Reserve Ratio in the banks; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the precise circumstances, necessitating the cut in the Cash Reserve Ratio ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) and (b) The Average Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) was reduced by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in stages from 15.0 per cent of net demand and time liabilities (DTL) of scheduled commercial banks to 14.0 per cent of net DTL with effect from the fortnight beginning December 9, 1995. The average CRR on Non-Resident (External) (NRE) Rupee deposits was reduced from 14.0 per cent to 10.0 per cent from the fortnight beginning January 6, 1996. The Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Banks) (FCNR(B)) deposits and the Non-Resident Non-Repatriable (NRNR) deposits were fully exempted from CRR stipulations from the fortnight beginning January 6, 1996.

The reduction in the CRR was undertaken in the context of monetary and credit developments and the need to augment the resources of banks. The relaxation of reserve requirements on non-resident deposits was undertaken taking into account the cost of raising these resources and the return on the deployment of these funds as well as to make these deposits more attractive to banks and enable banks to better market these deposits.

Branches of Syndicate Bank

613. SHRI N.J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the location-wise branches of Syndicate Bank of Gujarat and the category-wise number of employees belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes employed in these branches;

(b) whether the Government propose to open some more branches of this bank in the State during 1996-97;

(c) if so, the proposed locations thereof; and

(d) the measures being taken to fill up the vacant posts reserved for scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes therein ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) Syndicate Bank has furnished the details of their branches in Gujarat and the number of employees belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in those branches as indicated below :

District	No. of Branches	No. of employees belonging to:	
		Scheduled Caste	Scheduled Tribe
1	2	3	4
Ahmedabad	13	103	27
Bhavnagar	1	5	-
Broach	1	3	2
Bulsar	2	5	17
Gandhinagar	1	7	3

1	2	3	4
Jamnagar	2	6	1
Junagad	2	4	5
Kheda	4	12	5
Kutch	2	6	4
Mehsana	4	19	2
Rajkot	4	9	7
Surat	7	14	50
Surendranagar	1	4	2
Vadodara	3	12	3
Total	47	209	128

(b) and (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that in terms of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the Syndicate Bank, it is allowed to open branches with prior approval of RBI in cases where the proposed branch is expected to earn net profit in the first year of operation itself. The bank has not submitted any proposal to RBI recently for opening of a branch in Gujarat.

(d) The steps taken by the Government to fill up the reserved vacancies for SCs and STs public sector banks and Financial Institutions have been as under :-

1. Special recruitment drives have been carried out during the years 1989, 1990, 1992, 1993-94 and 1995 and a substantial backlog has been cleared;
2. The recruitment and representation position of SCs and STs in the Public Sector Banks is being reviewed through a comprehensive proforma by the Boards of Directors of each of the public sector bank every six months and the position is being reported to the Government;
3. Pre-recruitment training is being imparted by all banks to the candidates appearing for the BSRB examinations;
4. Establishment of Centres for examination nearest to the areas of concentration of the ST population; and
5. Banks have been advised to hold training workshops for the personnel working in their SC/ST cells to make them fully aware of the need for implementation of the reservation policy.

Price Index

614. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the CPI and WPI as on the first relevant date in the first week of April, 1991 and the corresponding