

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) to (g). Residential telephones are allowed to officers having regard to the functional requirements. In terms of the existing orders, residential telephone is generally restricted to the officers of the rank of Deputy Secretary and above. Below the rank of Deputy Secretary, not more than 25% of Group 'A' officers can be provided with residential telephones. The officers of the level of Under Secretary, thus, belong to non-entitled category for the purpose of residential telephones, unless allowed under 25% quota, keeping in view the specific functional need.

[English]

Smuggling of Arms

1004. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA :

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether vast quantities of sophisticated arms are being smuggled in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government have made any investigation regarding the cases of smuggling of arms during 1995 and 1996;

(c) if so, the details of such cases including details of smugglers, arms seized, their financiers and their recipients; and

(d) steps taken by the Government in this regard?

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

Funds from the NRF for Gujarat

1005. SHRI HARIN PATHAK :

SMT. BHAVNA CHIKHLIA :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has sent any proposal for restructuring the mills of Gujarat State Textile Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any assistance under the National Renewal Fund has been given to the State Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the details of assistance given during the last three years; and

(e) the assistance proposed to be provided during the year 1995-96?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (e). According to the Ministry of Industry, the State Govt. of Gujarat have submitted a proposal for assistance of Rs. 96.83 crores from National Renewal Fund for restructuring and rehabilitation of Gujarat State Textile Corporation. Ministry of Industry will take up the proposal after operational modalities for grant of assistance from National Renewal Fund have been finalised.

[Translation]

Passes for journalists in AI

1006. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD :

SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air India have decided to issue 250 free tickets to the journalists every year;

(b) if so, the criteria laid down for the selection of such journalists and the number of free tickets likely to be issued to each journalists; and

(c) the amount earmarked for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c). Issue of passes by airlines for the purpose of Public relations is a normal industry practice. Air India has been issuing such passes for the last 30 years or more keeping in view its commercial and business interests and no new system has recently been evolved.

The passes are issued on the basis of perceived advantage/benefit to Air India, on the merit of each case and no cost is incurred by the Company as the pass holders are generally accommodated only after accommodating the revenue paying passengers.

[English]

National Institute of Fashion Technology

1007. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a centre of National Institute of Fashion Technology in Bangalore ;

(b) if so, the amount of Assistance to be provided by the Union Government;

(c) whether the State Government have agreed to provide land and other infrastructural facilities for this Institute;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time schedule fixed for completion of this?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) Government of India has received a proposal from the Government of Karnataka regarding setting up of a centre of National Institute of Fashion Technology at Bangalore.

(b) The amount of assistance to be provided by the Union Government as per the pattern approved by the Planning Commission for the purpose is Rs. 260 lakh non-recurring portion out of a total expenditure of Rs. 490 lakh.

(c) and (d). Government of Karnataka has agreed to provide land and other infrastructural facilities for the Institute as per the Project Report.

(e) The Ministry is engaged in setting up of five branches of National Institute of Fashion Technology at Calcutta, Gandhinagar, Hyderabad, Madras and Mumbai. Planning Commission and Ministry of Textiles are of the view that till these five institutes become fully operational and are recognised as Centres of Excellence, it would not be desirable to open any more institutes and spread the resources thinly. Therefore, no final decision can be taken at this stage and the time schedule cannot be predicted.

Income Tax Return

1008. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :

SHRI BALRAJ PASSI :

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA :

SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the political parties (National and Regional) recognised by the Election Commission are required to file their accounts of 'Receipts and Expenditures' to the Income Tax Authorities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the political parties which have not filed their tax return regularly; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V.CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) and (b). As per enclosed Statement - I

(c) As per enclosed Statement -II

(d) Part information in respect of the political parties which have not filed their tax returns regularly is being collected. All steps in accordance with law are being taken/will be taken to ensure that the statutory obligations are fulfilled by the political parties.

STATEMENT - I

According to Section 139(48) of the Income tax Act, 1961, the Chief Executive or every political party is, if the total income in respect of which the political party is assessable (the total income for this purpose being computed without giving effect to the provisions of Section 13 A of the Income-tax Act), exceeds the maximum amount which is not chargeable to income-tax required to furnish a return of such income of the previous year.

The provisions of Section 13A of Income-tax Act provide for exemption of income assessable under the head 'Income from house property' or 'Income from other sources' or income by way of voluntary contribution received provided the political party fulfils the following conditions :

(a) such political party keeps and maintains such books of account and other documents as would enable the Assessing Officer to properly deduce its income therefrom;

(b) in respect of each such voluntary contribution in excess of ten thousand rupees, such political party keeps and maintains a record to such contribution and the name and address of the person who has made such contribution; and

(c) the accounts of such political party are audited by an accountant as defined in the Explanation below sub-section (2) of Section 288.