

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). Cases, allegedly involving misdeclaration and under invoicing of goods, are noticed from time to time in custom houses, which impact the Customs duties or the outgo of foreign exchange. Administrative arrangements, however, exist for the Customs officers to monitor the prices of import commodities as well as for exchange of information among the Custom house. Similarly, the Customs Houses also exchange information or intelligence relating to specific cases of misdeclaration and under invoicing, leading to detection of offences.

In addition, the law provides for confiscation of goods involving wrong declaration of description of value, besides imposition of fine and penalty. In serious offences, the persons involved are also prosecuted.

As a part of measures taken by the Government to deal with misdeclaration and invoice manipulation, preventive and intelligence activities have been strengthened and plans are underway to extend computerisation to all Custom Houses and to all Customs procedures and operations. These would help in containing as well as detecting the attempts made by unscrupulous importers/exporters.

[Translation]

Irregularities by Public Financial Companies

1227. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some irregularities by some public financial institutions in private placement issues of some companies have come to the notice of the Government as reported in Economic Times dated June 3, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken against the guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). Government is aware of the news item reported in 'The Economic Times' dated June 3, 1996. The investment referred to relates to investment by UTI, LIC and GIC in equity shares of Reliance Industries Limited for a total amount of about Rs. 945 crores. The issues of action to be taken, if any, is under examination.

[English]

District Industrial Centres

1228. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of District Industry Centres set up in each State as on date, State-wise; and

(b) the incentives given by the Government to these centres?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The total number of District Industries Centres/Sub-DICs reported to the refuncting as on date in the country is 475. A State/UT-wise statement is enclosed.

(b) The District Industries Centres are State Government offices. In terms of the decision of the National Development Council the District Industries Centres Scheme was transferred to the State Sector from the year 1993-94, prior to which, the District Industries Centre was a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. The Central Government however still provides District Industries Centres infrastructure/funds which are scheme specific.

STATEMENT

State UT-wise number of district industries centres functioning as on date in the country

S. No.	Name of the State/UT	No. of District Industries Centres Functioning
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	23
2.	Assam	23
3.	Bihar	39
4.	Gujarat	18
5.	Himachal Pradesh	12
6.	Haryana	17
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	14
8.	Karnataka	20
9.	Kerala	14
10.	Madhya Pradesh	48
		(There are 45 districts where DICs are functioning 3 additional DICs are working in Bhand, Dhar and Raisen districts)
11.	Maharashtra	29
12.	Manipur	8
13.	Meghalaya	7
14.	Nagaland	7
15.	Orissa	13
16.	Punjab	17
17.	Rajasthan	33
18.	Sikkim	2
19.	Tamil Nadu	22
20.	Tripura	3
21.	Uttar Pradesh	66