

be taken by the Government to check the erosion of revenue ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) and (b) data regarding the number of vehicles purchased by persons carrying on business for claiming depreciation is not available as no separate records are maintained for this purpose.

(c) It is proposed under clause 11 of the Finance (No. 2) Bill, 1991 to restrict the depreciation in respect of assets used for a period of less than one hundred eighty days to 50% of the amount of depreciation admissible under the Income-tax Act.

Evasion of Taxes by Traders in Delhi

4258. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that unscrupulous traders in Delhi build up their cash books by showing sales in cash whereas such sales are actually made on credit and they keep such bills with them to be realised later on;

(b) if so, the number of such cases detected by the income tax and sales tax authorities during the last three years and the action taken thereon;

(c) whether the Government propose to launch a concerted drive to apprehend such unscrupulous traders in Delhi; and

(d) if not, the reasons for allowing traders to convert the black money into white money?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) and (b) For the purposes of Delhi Sales Tax Act, 1975, cash sales and credit sales are treated at par, as sales tax is leviable on both cash sales as well as credit sales.

In the cases taken up for investigation by Income-tax authorities in Delhi in the last three years, such a modus operandi has not come to notice.

(c) and (d) In view of reply to (a) and (b), does not arise.

Non-availability of Items in Customs Disposal Shops

4259. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether textiles, sarees and other goods are sold by the customs disposal shops to co-operative institutions and N. C. C. F. in larger quantities rather than to the general public for their personal use;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to sell maximum items to the members of general public;

(c) whether public is greatly inconvenienced due to frequent closure and non-availability of goods in these shops; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to improve the functioning of the customs disposal shops in the country, particularly in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) to (d) Confiscated textiles, sarees and other consumer goods are mainly

sold in bulk to registered Co-operative Societies and National Consumers Co-operative Federation for being sold in turn to bonafide consumers in retail through Super Bazaars, Sakhari Bhandars, etc. Such goods are also offered for sale to military/police/para-military canteens. A small quantity of consumer goods are also sold in retail through Customs Retail Shops on a 'first-come-first-serve' basis. Priority is given to bulk sales for obtaining quick returns, to avoid deterioration of the goods due to passage of time, optimum utilisation of storage space, etc. There is no source of regular supplies of such goods to the Customs Retail Shops other than the left overs from bulk sales. Goods sold in bulk, however, also reach the members of the general public through the other channel, i.e., NCCF, etc.

Instructions have been issued recently that the opening balance of items of high values such as television, video cassette recorders, wrist watches etc. should be displayed on a notice board placed prominently outside the retail shops at the beginning of sale everyday for the benefit of the general public.

[Translation]

Rehabilitation of Ex-Servicemen in Agra District

4260. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of permanent residents of Agra district retired during 1988, 1989 and 1990, after completion of service in three wings of the armed forces, year-wise;

(b) the number of these retired per-

sons who have been rehabilitated ;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide accommodation to these retired persons ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) As per the information furnished by Zila Sainik Board, Agra, the number of permanent residents of Agra, who retired during 1988, 1989 and 1990 in the three wings of the Armed Forces, is 480, 523 and 587, respectively.

(b) The details of retired personnel rehabilitated are as under :—

Year	Employed	Self employed	Total
1988	106	6	112
1989	72	11	83
1990	59	17	76

(c) and (d) Govt. do not have any proposal to provide housing to retired service personnel. However, the Army Welfare Housing Organisation (AWHO) has a self-financing scheme at Agra to provide housing facility to serving and retired Army personnel and widows of Army personnel. 50 houses were constructed by the AWHO upto 1989. 24 houses are presently under construction.

Reinstatement of Dismissed D.T.C. Employees

4261. SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA :
SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of employees of the