

Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and National Capital Territory of Delhi who have finalised and notified the State Legal Services Authority Rules in their State Gazettes. The provisions of Chapter III of the Act are likely to be extended to the State of Bihar soon. Other States are being persuaded vigorously to finalise the State Legal Services Authority Rules so that the provisions of Chapter III of the Act could be extended to them as well.

(b) The criteria for giving legal services is contained in Section 12 of the Act which is as under :

- (a) a member of a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe;
- (b) a victim of trafficking in human beings or begar as referred to in article 23 of the Constitution;
- (c) a woman or a child;
- (d) a mentally ill or otherwise disabled person;
- (e) a person under circumstances of undeserved want such as being a victim of a mass disaster, ethnic violence, caste atrocity, flood, drought, earthquake or industrial disaster; or
- (f) an industrial workman; or
- (g) in custody, including custody in a protective home or in a juvenile home or in a psychiatric hospital or psychiatric nursing home; or
- (h) in receipt of annual income less than rupees nine thousand or such other higher amount as may be prescribed by the State Government, if the case is before a court other than the Supreme Court, and less than rupees twelve thousand or such other higher amount as may be prescribed by the Central Government, if the case is before the Supreme Court.

Provided that the concerned Authority is satisfied that such person has *prima facie* case to prosecute or to defend. [S. 13(1)]

(c) The information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) The State Legal Aid and Advice Boards and the State Legal Services Authorities are being funded by the respective State Governments. No allocation of funds from the Central Government grant to the States is, as such, earmarked for giving legal aid in courts.

(e) Free legal aid is a continuing process and, as such, it is not possible to fix any target.

Mahila Banks

4550. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the RBI has issued any instructions to the commercial banks in the country to man the Mahila Bank branches by women only;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of banks opened in the country so far which are being manned by the women exclusively, bank-wise, branch-wise and location-wise; and

(d) the steps being taken to open such more banks in the country?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that it has not issued any instructions to commercial banks for opening branches to be manned only by women.

(c) and (d). RBI has further reported that as on 31st May, 1996, there were 68 women urban cooperative banks throughout the country. The data reporting system of RBI does not, however, generate information regarding branches of various commercial banks manned exclusively by women.

Duty on Import of Steel

4551. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantum of stainless steel required to be imported in the country at present alongwith the details of imports and duty levied on the imports during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to review the duties levied each year in the face of large scale evasion and to take new measures to check this evasion;

(c) the value of steel confiscated during the last three years alongwith the details of method of disposal of the same;

(d) whether the Government propose to streamline the method in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) As per information available the quantity of stainless steel imported, customs duty collected thereon and the rate of basic customs duty on stainless steel, during the last three years are given below:

Year	Imports (000 MT)	Duty (Rs. cr.)	Rate
1993-94	43.2	49.89	65%
1994-95	18.6	81.56	50%
1995-96	58.1	159.73	40%

The quantum of stainless steel required to be imported depends on variety of factors, such as domestic production, prices in the domestic and international markets, the domestic demand and the production in related sectors. Hence it is not possible to quantify the stainless steel required to be imported.

(b) Normally, duty structure in respect of various commodities is reviewed before preparation of general Budget proposals. Changes made in basic customs duty structure on stainless steel and products thereof in this year's Budget, are given below:

Stainless Steel slabs	:	20%
H.R. Coils	:	25%
C.R. Coils and other products	:	30%

(c) Information in this regard is being collected and will be laid before the House in due course.

(d) and (e). The method of disposal of absolutely confiscated goods, including stainless steel, is either through auction or through tenders. No difficulty has been faced in this method of disposal.

Multinational Corporations

4552. SHRI UTTAM SINGH PAWAR :
SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH :
SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to invite foreign institutional investors to increase foreign investment in the country and to give autonomy to PSEs;

(b) if so, the special measure taken to attract foreign investment and the areas of such investment explored so far; and

(c) the estimated foreign investment likely to be increased therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) With a view to promote modernisation and

technological upgradation, investments from other countries including foreign institutions is encouraged. The Common Minimum Programme of the United Front envisages that the Govt. will help to make public sector strong and competitive.

(b) To encourage foreign direct investment, the Govt. have, among other things, revamped the Foreign Investment Promotion Board and have also constituted the Foreign Investment Promotion Council which would suggest ways and means for investment promotion. The sectors like power, telecom, railways and ports need huge investment.

(c) While it is not possible to anticipate the likely inflow of foreign investment in advance, trends in the foreign direct investment approvals so far, has been satisfactory.

Reservation for Handloom Sector

4553. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have cut down the list of 20 items reserved for exclusive production for handlooms sector;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to review its decision to safeguard the interests of the weavers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) to (d). The Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production Act, 1985 aims to protect and develop handloom industry by reserving articles or class of articles for exclusive production by Handlooms. The Act provides for periodic review of list of reserved articles based on the recommendations of an Advisory Committee. In pursuance of recent recommendations of the Advisory Committee, the Govt. have notified a list of 11 articles which are reserved for exclusive production by Handlooms.

Banking support to Tea Gardens of Assam

4554. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA :
DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Tea Gardens of Assam are suffering from lack of banking support in the matter of their expansion and modernisation programmes; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to remedy the situation?