

(b) These matters are constantly under review of the Government and the L.I.C. The L.I.C. has taken, inter-alia, the following steps :

- (i) As part of expenditure control the cadre strength of the administrative staff has been frozen at the level obtaining on 1-4-1974.
- (ii) A detailed exercise has been made to simplify the procedures, so that the offices can cope with increased value of work without increase in staff strength.
- (iii) Interest earnings are maximised by careful selection of investments and planning of the cash flow.

Reservation of Posts for S. C. and S.T. in Branches of Allahabad Bank, Calcutta

6718. SHRI P. M. SAYEED : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of posts of typists, clerks and cashiers filled in various branches in Calcutta of the Allahabad Bank, during 1973, 1974 and first two months of 1975;

(b) the number of posts reserved in each category during this period, for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

(c) whether all the reserved posts were filled; and

(d) if not; the reasons for reserved posts remaining vacant when a larger number of reserved category candidates had actually passed in the written test?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) : (a) The recruitment of Clerks, Typists and Cashiers made by Calcutta branches of Allahabad Bank during 1973, 1974 and first two months of 1975 is given in the table below :

	1973	1974	1st two months of 1975
Clerks .	75	81	11
Typists .	41	6	2
Cashiers .	Nil	Nil	Nil

(b) During this period, 78 and 14 posts were reserved for Scheduled Castes/Tribes in the categories of Clerks and Typists respectively.

(c) and (d) According to the bank, all the reserved posts could not be filled because of lack of suitable candidates. The unfilled vacancies have been carried over to be filled in future recruitments.

Disposal of confiscated goods

6719. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total value of imported goods seized from smugglers and confiscated during the last financial year;

(b) in what manner these goods were disposed of; and

(c) the amount realised as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Trade with Mexico

6720. SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Mexico has expressed a desire to have more trade arrangements with India; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a) and (b) Mexico has not expressed formal desire for more trade arrangements with India. However, the possibility of augmenting trade between the two countries has been discussed by both sides from time to time and is kept under review.

Ban on New Recruitment in Central Government Services

6722. SHRI S. N. MISRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state ;

(a) whether Government have imposed ban on new recruitments in the Central Government Services;