

25. Indian Express Newspapers (Bombay) Pvt. Ltd.
26. Sahib Singh Mfg. Co. Pvt. Ltd.
27. Starit (Engg.) Water Treatment Co. Pvt. Ltd.
28. T. Maneklal Mfg. Co. Ltd.
29. Lamp Caps and Filaments Ltd.
30. Lawkin Ltd.

(B) *Non-banking financial and Miscellaneous Non-banking companies.*

1. Sterling Benefit and Investment Co. Pvt. Ltd.
2. Shantikam Financiers and Chit Funds Pvt. Ltd.
3. Nav Bharat Investment Ltd.
4. Gurdeo Finance and Savings Pvt. Ltd.
5. People's Mutual Benefit Pvt. Ltd.
6. Navjivan Chit Fund Pvt. Ltd.
7. Star of Cochin Chit Schemes Pvt. Ltd.
8. Sable's Chit Pvt. Ltd.
9. Bhagyalakshmi Finance Pvt. Ltd.
10. Madhu Chit Fund and Trading Co. Pvt. Ltd.
11. Uma Investments Pvt. Ltd.
12. Amar Finance (Bombay) Pvt. Ltd.

Raising of Capital by Companies

2376. SHRI PRASANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) how many companies have so far been allowed to raise their capital during the last one year;

(b) how many such companies belong to the State of Gujarat; and

(c) whether in the month of April, five companies were allowed to raise their capital?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) During the financial year 1976-77, consents/acknowledgement of proposals under the Capital Issues (Control) Act were given to 380 non-Government companies for raising capital by way of initial issues, further issues, bonus issues, debentures, etc.

(b) Of the above, 34 companies had their incorporation in the State of Gujarat.

(c) The reference is perhaps to one of the four Press releases issued by the Office of the Controller of Capital Issues in the month of April 1977 giving the names of the five companies which have been allowed to raise capital. In all, during the month of April 1977, 26 companies had been allowed to raise capital.

Indirect taxes on Non-ferrous Metals

2377. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the metal industry has pleaded for simplified and rationalised structure of indirect taxes on non-ferrous metals; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is under examination.

Demand from All India non-ferrous Metal Industries Association for Collection of Excise Duty on Single point

2378. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Non-ferrous Metal Industries Association has urged the Government to restrict the collection of central excise duty to a single point; and

(b) if so, the decision taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is under examination.

Opposition for move to reduce Central Government Staff

2379. SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the move of Government to reduce the sanctioned strength of Central Government staff by 10 per cent has been opposed by the trade unions working in the field, and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) All Ministries/Departments of the Central Government have been requested vide Finance Secretary's D.O letter dated 13-5-77, to review their staff strength as also that of their subordinate formations to explore the possibility of reducing existing strength by at least 10 per cent. A copy of this letter has been laid on the Table of the House in answer to Unstarred Question No. 902 on 17-6-77. Representations have been received from a few Unions against these orders.

(b) Keeping in view the need for utmost economy in administrative expenditure, as also the fact that the general employment prospects are not likely to be affected as a result of the orders issued, no change is contemplated therein.

Impact of Reduction in Import Duty on Coconut and Coconut Oil

2380. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN:
SHRI M. N. GOVINDAN
NAIR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to reduce import duty on coconut and coconut oil considerably and also to encourage large scale import of these items;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware of the serious impact it has made on the financial structure of the Kerala Government, as a result of a slump in the prices of coconut and coconut oil in Kerala; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) With a view to overcoming the shortage of edible oils in the country and making them available at reasonable prices, the Government liberalised the import of edible oils and oil seeds including coconut oil and copra from January, 1977 and reduced the customs duty on coconut oil, from 75 per cent to 30 per cent, with effect from 20-5-1977. No decision has been taken to reduce the customs duty on copra.

(b) and (c). There has been no such slump in the prices of copra and coconut oil as to seriously affect the economics of coconut cultivation.

C.B.I. Investigations into suspected involvement of Indians in International Boeing purchase Scandal

2381. SHRI G. K. CHANDRAPPAN:
SHRI P. K. KODIYAN:

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

(a) whether preliminary investigations have been made by C.B.I. into