

emphasised the need to stabilise interest and exchange rates and the need for strengthening multilateral institutions as well as their resources. It was also urged that a policy of multi year rescheduling of debts of debtor countries should be followed. On matters of trade the Group urgent the implementation of the GATT work programme, and trade negotiations should focus on enlarging the access of developing countries to markets of developed countries.

(d) The G-24 meeting was held prior to the Interim and Development Committee meetings to evolve a consensus among the developing countries for pursuing a coordinated approach in the Interim and Development Committee meetings. The recommendations of G-24 were considered by the Interim and Development Committees in arriving at their conclusions. Some of the Developed countries who are members of these committees, accepted the need to make a forward movement in these directions.

Visit of Artists to South Africa

6121. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some artists, like singers etc. made trips to South Africa;

(b) whether the Reserve Bank of India gave clearance and allowed foreign exchange for the visit;

(c) if so, how these visit reconcile with country's declared policy of boycott of the racist regime; and

(d) whether any amount of money these singers have brought from that country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a). Yes Sir. We learn that some artists went to South Africa without endorsement of the country on their Passports.

(b) The Reserve Bank of India have not released any foreign exchange to artists like singers etc., to visit South Africa.

(c) Government have restricted visits of Indian nationals to South Africa by not endorsing Indian passports for travel to South Africa except where the visits were necessary for the maintenance of cultural, education, religious and family links of the large Indian communities in that country. In such cases, an assurance, however, is obtained that the visits would be strictly cultural and no commercial/monetary benefits accrue to the artists. As a deterrent to any future violation of the above policy, Government of India have banned certain artists who have performed in South Africa for commercial benefits from broadcasting/performing on All India Radio/Doordarshan or for giving any further performance under Government of India auspices.

(d) Under the current Exchange Control Regulations, remitters of amounts below Rs. 10,000 or its equivalent are not required to furnish the country, nationality and purposewise details. Details of inward remittances of Rs. 10,000 and above are reported for statistical purposes only. Further, on return, an Indian from abroad is required to surrender foreign exchange brought by him to the Authorised Dealers in India within a period of seven days from the date of arrival in the country and the Authorised Dealers are not required to report to the Reserve Bank of India the purpose, details of such purchases. As such, it is not possible to indicate the amount if any, brought in by these singers from South Africa.

Reorganisation of Regions of SBI in Hill Areas

6122. SHRI G.G. SWELL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the reorganisation of regions of the State Bank of India in