

etc., were exempted from the ban imposed in 1974 and only the administrative posts in these Departments were covered by the ban ;

(b) if so, whether a similar approach is proposed to be followed this time and the ban on recruitment to existing vacancies and new posts imposed in 1984 would be modified suitably so as to be at par with the 1974 ban ;

(c) if so, the exact date by which the necessary modification is likely to be made ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : Part (a) :—Yes, Sir.

Part (b) :—No, Sir.

Part (c) :—Does not arise.

Part (d) :—Instructions issued in January, 1984 advising Ministries/Departments of the Government of India not to fill up vacancies except where recruitment action had already been taken were part of a package of anti-inflationary measures and the circumstances have not changed since then to necessitate any relaxation of these instructions.

Release of Prabhadevi Warehouse by customs

626. SHRI NATVARSIKH SOLANKI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to starred Question No. 407 given on 12th April, 1985 regarding pilferages from warehouse of Collectorate of Customs, Bombay and state :

(a) The grounds on which Bombay Municipal Corporation has not taken cognisance of the change of user of Prabhadevi Warehouse under the occupation of Collector of Customs, Bombay especially when the plans for construction of residential flats have been passed by the Corporation ; and

(b) whether the Collector of Customs, Bombay has searched an alternative accommodation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) (a) : It is reported by the Bombay Municipal Corporation that the plot owners were asked to comply with certain requirements and that those conditions have not been complied with and hence no cognisance of the change of user is taken by the Municipal Corporation.

(b) The Collectorate is examining the proposals for alternate accommodation already received.

Shortage of ferro silicon

627. SHRI CHINTA MOHAN : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a shortage of ferro silicon for Steel Authority of India Limited and other steel factories (Business Standard, dated 8.7.1985) ;

(b) if so, whether this is going to be imported ;

(c) whether shortfall in production duty which are pending realisation of ferro silicon is due to shortage of power in Andhra Pradesh and other States ; and

(d) if so, the corrective steps proposed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) Steel Authority of India Limited plants have been facing a shortage of ferro silicon.

(b) Import of ferro silicon is under consideration of the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)

(c) and (d) SAIL are experiencing shortfalls in the supplies of ferro silicon from suppliers located in Karnataka and Orissa. The supplier of ferro silicon to SAIL from Andhra Pradesh has

fulfilled the orders placed on it during 1984-85.

Bank robberies in Delhi

628. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases of bank robberies taken place in Delhi during the last six months upto 15th July, 1985;

(b) the total amount of cash looted in these bank robberies ; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to check bank robberies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) 4.

(b) Rs. 7.66 lakhs (approx.).

(c) Government has advised all public sector banks to strengthen their internal security arrangements. The report of the High Power Working Group on security arrangements in banks has also been forwarded to the banks and the State Governments for implementing the various recommendations contained therein.

[Translation]

Disappearance of Firms with banks loans

629. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appearing in the 'Jansatta' dated 9th July, 1985 (published from Delhi) under the caption '80 Lakh Karz Lene Ke Bad Char Farmein Gayab' (four firms disappeared with loan of 80 lakh); and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government and action taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is in the knowledge of the Reserve Bank of India and is being followed up by them with the banks. The Reserve Bank of India, however, have no information about the so-called "disappearance" of the firms. The question of arbitration between Bank of Baroda and Allahabad Bank is being processed in accordance with the prescribed procedure.

[English]

Autonomous Status to Falta Export Processing Zone Authority

630. SHRI BHOLA NATH SEN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government has any proposal to make the Falta Export Processing Zone Authority (FEPZA) an autonomous decision making body; and

(b) if so, (i) the details thereof; and (ii) the steps taken for timely clearance of proposals for investments in the Falta Export Processing Zone in West Bengal and with what results ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) & (b) The Falta Export Processing Zone Authority constituted as it has comprehensive & wide-ranging powers & functions to take decisions for the rapid development and smooth functioning of the Zone. Through single window clearance facility for timely clearance, the Board of Approvals for the Zone considers proposals for industrial and manufacturing units to be set up in the Zone.

Agreement with other countries to abolish double taxation

631. SHRI KRISHNA PRATAP SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the particulars of the countries with which India has entered into agreement to abolish double taxation; and

(b) the difficulties that are coming in the way of abolishing double taxation ?