

(b) There is an in-built provision in the import policy which makes obligatory on the part of all importers to send details of imports under OGL to the Government, to enable it to keep a watch.

(c) No such report has been received. However, Government have decided to allow MMTC to import 10,000 M Ts of soda ash for off-the-shelf delivery to the small scale units who are not in a position to import the material themselves.

(d) and (e) For the purpose of monitoring of distribution and cost of soda ash by indigenous manufacturers, Government have constituted a Standing Committee on soda Ash—under the Ministry of Industry (Deptt., of Chemicals). Monthwise statement of distributions are submitted by manufacturers to the Ministry.

Awarding of Works to Private owned Organisations Despite Lowest Tenders by HSCL

4883. SHRI GADADHAR SAHA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that despite of lowest tenders by the Hindustan Steel Works Construction Limited, certain construction works were awarded to private owned organisations by certain Government agencies ;

(b) if so, the details of the construction works so awarded to private organisations ;

(c) the merit for such award with difference between the HSCL quotation and awardee's quotations, project-wise details thereof ;

(d) whether there is any shift in Government's policy in this regards ;

(e) if so, the details thereof ; and

(f) if not, the reasons for awarding these construction projects to private constructions organisations ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Incentives to Customs Officers for Detection of Smuggling

4884. SHRI CHINTA MOHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Customs Officers are paid special incentives for detection of smuggling cases ;

(b) if so, whether similar incentives are paid to other tax collecting staff such as Income Tax Excise, Sales Tax, property Tax etc.

(c) whether Government have decided to improve these incentives and if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) whether Government propose to work out a uniform policy of payments of incentives to all staff employed in various Departments such as ticketless travel, false insurance claim, etc. ?

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

(b) Almost similar incentives are paid to the Excise staff and incentives are also paid to Income-tax staff. Since Sales tax and property tax are the subject of State Government and Municipal Corporation respectively the Central Government has no jurisdiction over these taxes.

(c) The Scheme of rewards and other incentives granted to informers and departmental officers engaged in anti-smuggling work was reviewed by the Government in March 1985 and it was decided to raise the reward eligibility of the informers and departmental officers alike from 10 to 20% of the value of contraband goods seized with provision for grant of part of the reward immediately after seizure. It includes creation of three Funds with amounts ranging

from 1 to 5% of the value of contraband goods seized, accruing to it to be used by the Govt. for the purpose of encouragement of better performance, acquiring anti-smuggling equipment and providing a measure of security and amenities to the Departmental Officers. Income-tax Department have recently introduced a scheme for grant of reward to its officers and staff. This scheme is, in brief, for maximum disposal of summary assessments, additions above Rs. 50,000/- made to income in scrutiny assessments which are substantially upheld in appeal, for search and seizure work involving assets of at least Rs. 10 lakhs for successful representation before Appellate Tribunal. In the field of collection of Income tax also the Govt. had instituted a scheme of reward in 1973 which was reappraised in the light of the actual working and a revised scheme was formulated in January 1982. Proposal for improving the scheme is under consideration of the Government.

(d) Railway Department has submitted a proposal to grant incentive to the ticket-checking staff which is under examination in consultation with the Ministry of Finance. No such proposal is under consideration by the Govt. for the staff in Insurance Department.

[*Translation*]

Scheme to Increase Trade with Socialist countries

4885. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme to increase trade with various socialist countries ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) whether Government have reached trade agreement with some of the socialist countries ;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) the benefits likely to accrue to the country therefrom ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) and (b) Continuous efforts are being made to increase and diversify trade with various socialist countries in East Europe. Various steps like participation in trade fairs and exhibitions, exchange of commercial delegations, convening of Inter-Governmental Joint Commission meetings and conclusion of annual Trade Protocol for exchange of commodities are being taken, in this direction.

(c) and (d) Government have separate Trade Agreements with USSR, GDR, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Romania which provide for the settlement of all commercial and non-commercial transactions between India and these countries in on-convertible Indian rupees. Under this system, the bilateral trade is to be on balanced basis where imports and exports are expected to balance over a period of time.

(e) Bilateral rupee clearing has helped India in obtaining essential raw materials and industrial goods without recourse to free foreign exchange and also in securing assured markets for exports of both traditional and non-traditional products. The rupee trading arrangements have thus helped India in the conversation of free foreign exchange and the promotion of exports.

[*English*]

Setting up of Tribunals/Courts to Deal Bank Cases

4886. SHRIMATI PATEL RAMABEN : RAMJIBHAI MAVANI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the scheduled banks and co-operative banks have filed court cases in Rajkot and other places of Gujarat against those persons who have not returned the amounts of their loans so far ;