

Less than 6 months	120
More than 6 months but less than 1 year	70
More than 1 year	70

(d) In most cases, delays occur because there is no response from the referees whose names are given by the applicants themselves. It is for the applicants to ensure that formalities are completed within the shortest time. The UTI is considering the question of fixing a time schedule for treating the cases in respect of which there is no response from the referees as rejected.

Prices of Synthetic and Cotton Clothes

1164. SHRI KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the effect on prices of clothes both synthetic and cotton consequent on the implementation of the new textile policy; and

(b) if the price has increased, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b). There was increase in the prices of cotton (mill) cloth and handloom cloth by 2.3% and 1.4% respectively between May, 1985 and May, 1986. These were, however, below the level that had taken place one year prior to announcement of the new Textile Policy in June, 1985 which were 5.1% and 3.1% respectively. The prices of blended cloth dropped by 10% during this period. Marginal increase in prices of mill made and handloom cloth is attributable to the increase in the cost of various inputs.

Steps to Promote Tourism

1165. SHRI JANAK RAJ GUPTA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of foreign tourists to India and Jammu and Kashmir in particular during the years 1984-85 and 1985-86; and

(b) the steps initiated to promote tourism in different States ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (MUFTI MOHD. SYED) : (a) The number of foreign tourists, excluding nationals of Pakistan and Bangladesh, who visited India and the Kashmir Valley during 1984-85 and 1985-86 are as given below :

	No. of tourists to India	No. of tourists to Kashmir Valley*
1984-85	801,336	35,029
1985-86	875,575	39,606

*As per the information available from the State Government.

(b) The steps taken by the Central Government to promote tourism in different States of the country include identification of new centres of tourist potential, construction of low budget accommodations of Yatri Niwasas and Yatrikas and other facilities at the existing tourist centres, promotion of packages specially for the youths and provision of wayside facilities along important roads, providing better railways and airlines connections and encouraging tour packages offered by public and private sector travel agents. Publicity campaigns are also undertaken to create special awareness among the people about domestic tourism. As regards Jammu and Kashmir, apart from a special Kashmir promotion campaign, the railways and Indian Airlines have introduced concessional fares for travel to Kashmir. The State Government, the hotels and the house-boat owners have been persuaded to announce concessions. Besides, the State Government in collaboration with ITDC has organised a very successful Festival of Kashmir which would be repeated to promote the culture and cuisine of other States also.

Contribution to Total Revenue by Top Ten Companies

1166. SHRI GANGA RAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the contribution to total revenue made by top ten companies in India by way of excise/import duties and corporate taxes, separately; and

(b) the plans of Government to provide incentives to companies for their good behaviour in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). The information to the extent possible is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Import of Soyabean Oil

1167. DR. B.L. SHAILESH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether four leading diamond export houses have allegedly imported soyabean oil worth about Rs. 2.5 crores by misusing their import licences;

(b) if so, the conditions of import licences issued to them;

(c) the manner in which soyabean oil has been disposed of on arrival in India;

(d) the penal action taken against these exporters for violation of the terms and conditions stipulated in the import licences issued to them; and

(e) the preventive measures taken to check such cases in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) Yes, Sir, Reports have been received by the Government that certain Export Houses (in diamond trade) have made unauthorised import of Industrial Degummed Soyabean Oil (inedible) against Additional Licences issued to them.

(b) The Additional Licences were issued in pursuance of Supreme Court Judgement dated 18.4.1985 as clarified by judgements dated 5.3.1986 and 15.5.1986.

(c) and (d). The Customs at Kandla from where imports of the item have been reported have issued show cause notices against the importers and against them Adjudication proceedings are in progress.

(e) The Government have issued suitable instructions to All Port Licensing Authorities and Collectors of Customs, clarifying such imports of inedible crude soyabean oil for industrial use as unauthorised against Additional Licences issued in pursuance of the aforesaid Supreme Court Judgements.

Outstanding Indirect Taxes

1168. DR. B.L. SHAILESH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the estimated amount of Indirect Taxes locked up in dispute/litigation or held over by the trade and industry by way of evasion or otherwise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : An amount of Rs. 640.67 crores approximately is pending realisation as on the 31st March, 1986 on account of confirmed demands relating to Customs and Central Excise duties.

Export of Wheat through Japanese Trading Company

1169. DR. B.L. SHAILESH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether export of wheat through a Japanese Trading Company has been discussed with a high-powered trade mission from Japan which visited India recently to promote bilateral trades;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) which of the Indian agencies exporting wheat participated in these discussions; and

(d) whether these exports will be on Government account or will be handled by private agencies only ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) to (d). A delegation of Nissho Iwai Corporation of Japan during its visit to India, held discussion on