

However, the Self-employment scheme which was introduced in the year 1983-84, extends to all areas of the country, excepting cities with more than one million population as per 1981 Census. Delhi being a city having more than one million population has been kept outside the purview of the Scheme.

Trade imbalance with Brazil

3613. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that high degree of imbalance exists in the country's trade exchanges with Brazil;

(b) if so, the reasons for this imbalance; and

(c) the efforts made by Government to have a more balanced trade with Brazil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main reasons for imbalance in trade between Brazil and India are that whereas India imports substantial quantities of edible oil from that country, India's exports are inhibited by, inter-alia, freight disadvantage due to long distance, lack of direct sailing and severe import restrictions in Brazil due to debt crisis.

(c) Efforts are being made to set up at Governmental level a suitable mechanism to explore ways and means of achieving balanced level of trade. A number of delegations of FICCI, Basic Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals and Cosmetics Export Promotion Council, Association of Indian Engineering Industry and IIFT were sent to Brazil for developing trade during the last five years. Delegations and teams from Basic Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals and Cosmetics Export Promotion Council, SAIL, Trade Development Authority and of automotive parts manufacturers visited Brazil in 1984 with the same objective. Efforts are being made also to organise satisfactory sailing arrangements from Indian to Brazilian ports.

Detection of excise evasion cases

3614. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases of excise evasion detected during the last three years, collectorate-wise;

(b) the number of them disposed of and number of those still pending;

(c) the steps taken to finalise those cases expeditiously as also the details of steps taken to check the further evasion of excise; and

(d) whether there has been any improvement in the collection of taxes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Information regarding cases of evasion of central excise duty detected during the years 1982, 1983, 1984 and upto June 1985 is given in the Statement below.

(b) After detection, cases are investigated and then adjudicated by the appropriate adjudicating authority. The number of these cases disposed of and those pending has to be ascertained from the field formations. The time, expenditure and the efforts involved will be considerable. However, if information is required about any particular case, it will be collected and furnished.

(c) The field formations have been directed from time to time to see that there is no delay in finalising adjudication proceedings. Further, powers of adjudication of various central excise officers have been recently enhanced. Preventive checks and excise control on factories have been intensified to check evasion of excise duty.

(d) Collection of central excise duties during the first four months of the current financial year is more than the collection during the corresponding period of last financial year.