

(a) Whether Danish Government has offered assistance for joint-ventures in the field of telecommunications, electronics and power industry ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) There has been no specific offer of assistance by the Danish Government for joint ventures in the field of telecommunications, electronics and power industry.

(b) Does not arise.

Trade Agreement with France :

3701. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India has decided to step up bilateral trade with France ;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Union Government in this regard ;

(c) whether any agreement with France has been signed ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) to (d) It is the endeavour of Government to set up bilateral trade with all friendly countries including France. No specific trade agreement has been signed with France.

Report of Arjun Sen Gupta Committee on Public Sector Enterprises

3702. SHRI BHOLA NATH SEN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received the report of the Arjun Sen Gupta Committee set up to review in depth the working of public sector enterprises in the

context of the country's economic structure and overall planning ;

(b) if so, the critical problems and constraints in the operation of public sector enterprises identified by the Committee ;

(c) the performance evaluation criteria suggested by the Committee ; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed by Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d) The Government have received the report of the Arjun Sengupta Committee. It is not in the public interest to divulge the details of the report or the action proposed to be taken thereon at this stage.

Modification in continuing ban on new services in class III & IV.

3703. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the continuing ban on new recruitment to Central Government services in Class III and Class IV is likely to be modified at an early date ; and

(b) whether the staff side in the JCM has pressed for lifting of the ban in view of creation of new assets ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) & (b) The anti-inflationary measures taken in January 1984 interalia included advising Ministries/Departments not to fill up existing vacancies except where recruitment action had been taken. In that context, no category of posts could be specifically exempted from the ban orders. Exemptions have, however, been allowed in a few selective cases like appointment of dependants of deceased employees on compassionate grounds and handicapped persons, redeployment of personnel surplus to one organisation in another, regularisation of casual labourers against Group 'D' vacancies, filling up of vacancies purely

by promotion etc. Proposal for filling up of other types of vacancies are, however, considered on the merits of each case, taking into account the operational necessity. The circumstances in which these instructions were issued have not changed since then to warrant any relaxation thereof. This position has also been explained by the Official Side in the meeting of National Council of J.C.M.

[*Translation*]

Smuggling of Goods on Rajasthan Border

3704. PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :—

(a) whether Pak nationals have been apprehended several times while smuggling goods on Rajasthan border with Pakistan ;

(b) if so, the total number of the persons arrested during the past two years ; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government in near future to check smuggling activities ?

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

[*English*]

Embargo on new Appointments in Central Government Offices.

3705. DR. SUDHIR ROY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the embargo on new appointments in the Central Government Offices still continues ;

(b) if so, whether it will not worsen the employment situation in the country ;

(c) whether it will not affect a large number of educated youngmen who are still unemployed in this international year of the youth ; and

(d) whether Government are considering in terms of lifting this embargo ?

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

(b) and (c) Instructions issued in January 1984 advising Ministries/Departments of the Govt. of India not to fill up existing vacancies except where recruitment action had been taken, were part of a package of anti-inflationary measures. Apart from exemptions having been allowed in a few selective cases like appointment of dependants of deceased employees on compassionate grounds and handicapped persons, redeployment of personnel surplus to one organisation in another, regularisation of casual labourers against Group 'D' vacancies, filling up of vacancies purely by promotion etc., proposals for filling up of other types of vacancies are considered on individual merits, having regard to the operational necessity. It is, however, expected that with the overall expansion and growth in economy, employment opportunities should increase in the non-Government sector also.

(d) The circumstances in which these economy instructions were issued have not changed since then to necessitate any relaxation thereof.

Sale of Court fee stamps, judicial and non-judicial stamp papers.

3706. SHRI HAFIZ MOHD SIDDIQ : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether public is being inconvenienced in the matter of availability of court fee stamps, judicial and non-judicial stamp papers etc. from the stamp vendors ;

(b) whether some of the stamp vendors like the one in Parliament Street, old courts, New Delhi sell ten paise paper at premium and there is no system followed by them for sale of court fee tickets and stamp papers ; and