

(b) whether Government propose to exempt gifts to blood relations of the family and thus simplify the present hardship to dependents and blood relations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) Section 5(2) of the Gift-tax Act, 1958 provides that gift-tax shall not be charged in respect of gifts made by any person during the previous year, subject to a maximum of Rs. 5,000 in value. The Government do not have under their consideration at present any proposal to modify the said exemption limit of Rs. 5,000. However, the exemption limits under the various direct tax enactments are reviewed periodically and modified to the extent considered necessary.

2. Clauses (vii), (viii), (ix) and (xii) of sub-section (1) of section 5 of the Gift-tax Act, 1958 already provide for exemptions, subject to certain limits and conditions, in respect of gifts made by any person to his relatives.

Misuse of foreign exchange by executives of M/s ITC Ltd; during their foreign trips

3766. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the executives and directors of M/s. I.T.C. Ltd. carry foreign exchange for misuse on their foreign trips although they have their foreign branches abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether any enquiry is proposed.

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.

[*Translation*]

Functioning or branches of State Bank in Almora-Nainital and Pithoragarh districts

3767. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of the branches of State Bank which are functioning in Almora-Nainital and Pithoragarh districts of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether Government propose to set up an office of the Regional Manager of State Bank in Almora so as to maintain necessary coordination between financial dealings and functioning of these branches; and

(c) if so, the time by which this office will be opened there ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The required information is given below :—

District	Number of branches of State Bank of India functioning as at the end of March 1985	Number of licences pending with the State Bank of India for opening new offices
Almora	23	1
Nainital	28	4
Pithoragarh	22	1
Total	73	6

(Data provisional)

(b) and (c) Reserve Bank of India has reported that it has not received any proposal from the State Bank of India for opening a Regional Office in Almora. It is for the bank to decide whether it is necessary to open a Regional Office at any place depending upon factors like the number of branches in the area, need for effective supervision, convenience, involvement of additional expenditure etc.