

(a) whether the public sector defence production units are fully utilising their production capacity; . . .

(b) if not, whether the Government propose to allow the private sector to use the spare capacity of defence units; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). The non-dedicated spare production capacity at the public sector defence production units may be utilised by the concerned units for execution of job orders for other public sector undertakings as well as the private sector.

Dredging of Tuticorin Port

5246. SHRI M. R. KADAMBUR JAN-ARTHANAN: WILL THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT BE pleased to state:

(a) the present position of the Court case pending before the Madras High court due to which the dredging work to further deepen the Tuticorin Port is held up; and

(b) the efforts made to expedite disposal of the case and commence dredging work without any further delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The Three Writ petitions filed by M/s ACC Company Limited in High Court of Madras were dis-

missed during February, 1991.

(b) Hydrographic Survey of approach channel has been taken up and completed through DCI in June, 1991 for assessment of balance dredge quantity. Based on this survey, the dredge quantities are under computation so that the balance dredging to attain the planned draft of 9.14 M (30 FT) could be taken up.

[*Translation*]

Simplified Income Tax Return Forms

5247. SHRI RAM NARAIN BERWA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made amendments in income tax return forms several times during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to introduce a simplified income tax return form; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (d). Different income tax return forms have been prescribed for various categories of tax payers. The number of times such forms have been amended during the past three years (1st August, 1988 onwards) is as under:

<i>Type of Income tax Return Form</i>	<i>Broad categories of assesseees covered</i>	<i>Number of times amended during the last three Years (1st August, 1988 to 31st July, 1991).</i>
Form No. 1	Companies	2
Form No. 2	Non-corporate assesseees having income from business or profession	3

<i>Type of Income tax Return Form</i>	<i>Broad categories of assesseees covered</i>	<i>Number of times amended during the last three Years (1st August, 1988 to 31st July, 1991).</i>
Form No. 3	Non-corporate assesseees not having income from business or profession	3
Form No. 3A	Charitable and religious trusts.	1

Changes in return forms are made mainly as a part of the on-going process of simplification. Some changes are also necessitated by amendments to the Income-tax Act, from time to time. The question of laying down any time limit for simplification does not, therefore, arise.

[English]

Hike in Lending Deposit Rates in Banks

5248. SHRISHRAVAN KUMARPATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government have recently hiked the lending deposit rates in the banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) its impact on curbing imports, reducing demand and rectifying the Balance of Payment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The interest rate on term deposits of three years and above with scheduled commercial banks was raised from 11.0% to 12.0% on 13th April '91. The term deposits rates were further raised by 1 percentage point with effect from 4th July 91.

(b) The details of the revised rates of interest on deposits from public in Scheduled Commercial banks in force at present are given below:-

	<i>Period of Deposits</i>	<i>Rate of interest per annum(%)</i>
(1)	46 days to less than one year	9.00
(2)	1 year to less than 2 years	10.00
(3)	2 years to less than 3 years	11.00
(4)	3 years and above	13.00

Similarly, the lending rates for borrowers with credit limits of over Rs. 2 lakh have been raised in two stages; from 16.0 per cent

(minimum) to 17.0 per cent (minimum) effective from April 13, 1991 and further to 18.5 per cent (minimum) effective from July 4,