

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The Tribunal in its Award, *inter-alia*, held that officers and other employees of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) be entitled to pay scales, allowances and other benefits on par with the officers and other employees of comparable level in corresponding posts of sponsor banks with effect from 1.9.1987. The employees of the RRBs are being paid revised salary with effect from January, 1991. The arrears due to them for the period prior to 1.1.1991, however, have not been paid due to weak financial position of most of the RRBs. The matter is now sub-judice before the Supreme Court.

(e) and (f). No decision has been taken yet.

Shares of ICICI in Private Banks

4718. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) is buying significant shareholdings in various private banks;

(b) if so, the purpose of such an entry into already established financial and banking companies;

(c) whether ICICI has reduced its role in promoting new companies;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):
(a) and (b). Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India Limited (ICICI) has reported that it has invested in the equity capital of two private sector banks. The purpose of investment was by way of alliance to utilise their existing branch network.

(c) ICICI has reported that it provides finance to commercially viable projects and due consideration is given to proposals from new companies.

(d) Does not arise.

Taxing Consequence

4719. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Income Tax Department conducts investigations to assess the extent of expenditure on ostentatious events and functions as reported in the Hindustan Times dated March 29, 1995;

(b) if so, the norms being followed in this regard;

(c) the details of such investigations made by the Income Tax Department during the last three years, year-wise; and

(d) the total amount of tax recovered through assessment of such expenditures during this period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):
(a) and (b). Yes Sir, Section 133A (5) of the Income Tax Act provides that where, having regard to the nature and scale of expenditure incurred by an assessee, in connection with any function, ceremony or event, the income-tax authority is of the opinion that it is necessary or expedient so to do, he may, at any time after such function, ceremony or event, require the assessee by whom such expenditure has been incurred or any person who, in the opinion of the income-tax authority, is likely to possess information as respects the expenditure incurred, to furnish such information as he may require as to any matter which may be useful for, or relevant to, any proceeding under this Act and may have the statements of the assessee or any other person recorded and any statement so recorded may thereafter be used in evidence in any proceeding under this Act.

(c) Details of surveys conducted u/s 133A (5) during the last three years are as under :

1992-93	664
1993-94	487
1994-95 (upto Feb', 95)	226*

(*provisional)

(d) Such statistics are not being maintained.

[Translation]

Testing Laboratories Under N.T.H.

4720. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to establish additional testing laboratories of the National Test House to meet increased work;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) A Regional Testing Laboratory of National Test House is being established at Guwahati to cater to the Testing facility needs of the various small, medium and village industries located in North Eastern States.

(b) The Testing Centre, Guwahati will have a Civil Laboratory, a Rubber, Plastic and Textile Laboratory and a Chemical Laboratory. The approved outlay of the Testing Centre is Rs. 1.85 crores.

(c) Possession of premises, made available by the Government of Assam for the proposed Testing Centre, has been taken and necessary renovation work will be started shortly. Further, in the wake of Plan Allocation