

Export of Iron Ore

1630. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foreign exchange earnings from iron ore exports, canalised through Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Ltd., are expected to decline during this year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by MMTC to increase the exports of iron ore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Identification and development of new markets, such as Thailand and Malaysia, and revival of old markets for iron ore exports from India like Slovakia (formerly, part of Czechoslovakia) and Romania, and efforts for better unit value realization are amongst the steps being taken by MMTC to increase the exports of iron ore.

[Translation]

Amendment in Registration Act, 1908

1631. SHRI SANTHOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received the views of the State Governments regarding section 28 and 30(2) of the Registration Act, 1908;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to abolish or amend these sections of the Act;

(d) if so, the steps being taken in this regard;

(e) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(f) the time by which the final decision is likely, to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (f) A proposal for the amendment/deletion of sub-section (2) of section 30 of the Registration Act, 1908 is under consideration of the Government and views/comments of the State Governments/Union Territories administration have been invited on the proposal. A final decision on the proposal would be taken after receipt of the views. As such it is not possible to indicate at this stage the time by which the said decision would be taken.

[English]

Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993

1632. SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the working of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993;

(b) if so, the details of the shortcomings noticed therein;

(c) whether the Government propose to amend this Act; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (d) Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 was passed by Parliament on 27th August, 1993. The process of establishment of the Debts Recovery Tribunals was started immediately thereafter as per the provisions of the Act. So far 5 DRTs and 1 Appellate Tribunal have been set up. Remaining Tribunals could not be set up due to the poor response from the eligible personnel for the post of Presiding Officer. Government on 5.12.94 introduced a bill in the Lok Sabha for amending the DRT Act 1993 for the purposes of raising the maximum age limit from 60 to 62 years for the Presiding Officer of the Debts Recovery Tribunal and 62 to 65 years for Presiding Officer of the Appellate Debts Recovery Tribunal. This Bill is presently pending before the Lok Sabha. A number of cases have been filed in the various High Courts challenging the constitutional validity of the Act. Delhi High Court by its Judgement dated 10.3.95 (in the matter of Delhi High Court Bar Association vs. Union of India & Ors.) has held that the Act is unconstitutional and void mainly on the ground that it erodes the independence of the judiciary. Government in consultation with the Law Ministry are examining the Judgement for taking the matter before the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Mutual Funds

1633. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:
SHRI RUP CHAND PAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that Mutual Funds display only selective information about their funds resulting in confusion and loss to small investors; and

(b) if so, the steps the Government propose to take in this regard to protect the small investors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), which regulates the operations of mutual funds has indicated that it has received no complaint regarding the display of selective information resulting into loss to small investors.

(b) Does not arise.