

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The STC's turnover in 1994-95 was the highest in recent years. The turnover in each of the years 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 is given below :

	Rs/Crore			
	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95 (Provisional)
-Exports	625	551	798	790
-Imports	610	324	239	959
-Domestic	80	138	80	90
-Total	1315	1013	1117	1839

STC's turnover during 1994-95 has registered an increase mainly because of import of sugar amounting to Rs. 590 crore.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. STC proposes to expand its operations both in exports and imports in order to achieve a turnover of about Rs. 2000 crores in 1995-96 by :

- Expanding direct trade in rice, wheat, coffee and chemicals etc.
- entering into a number of new areas of business like import of fertilizers, non-ferrous metals and kerosene oil;
- expanding domestic trading in the areas of rice, wheat and cashew.

(e) and (f). Yes, Sir. STC has recently signed an MOU with a company of international repute in Singapore for expanding its operations primarily in CIS countries.

Sick Units of Tamil Nadu

7307. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of sick industrial units in Tamil Nadu as on March 31, 1995;

(b) the number of sick industrial units in the State which were referred to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(c) the number of cases relating to industrial units in the State which have been decided by the BIFR since its inception; and the number out of them in which the BIFR has ordered for revival; and

(d) the number of industrial units, out of the above which have been revived so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that since its

inception, 137 references in respect of sick industrial companies of Tamil Nadu have been registered with it as on 31.03.1995, including 40 references during the period January 1992 - March 1995.

(c) and (d). BIFR has reported that out of the reference registered, 104 have been disposed of as on 30.4.1995, including 51 cases where revival scheme were sanctioned. Of these, 10 sick industrial companies have turned around.

[Translation]

Smuggling of Jaggery

7308. SHRI JANARDAN MISRA :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether jaggery is being smuggled at large scale to Nepal via Uttar Pradesh border;

(b) if so, the quantity of jaggery smuggled to Nepal during the last six months;

(c) whether the Government are formulating any scheme to check the smuggling thereof; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Smuggling being a clandestine activity it is not possible to estimate the quantity of jaggery smuggled into Nepal during last six months. However, during 1994-95 only 2 cases of smuggling of jaggery from U.P. to Nepal have been detected. The details of the seizures are as follows :

Quantity	Value
150 Kgs.	Rs. 450.00
2000 Kgs.	Rs. 16000.00

(c) and (d). Anti-Smuggling on Indo-Nepal Border are alert to detect and prevent smuggling including smuggling of jaggery. Close coordination is being maintained amongst all agencies concerned with detection and prevention of smuggling.

[English]

Money Policy

7309. SHRI R. ANBARASU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the tight money policy will bring down monetary expansion and also contain inflation; and

(b) if so, the policy changes being made by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b) The credit policy announced by the Reserve Bank of India on April 17, 1995 for the first half of the current financial year seeks to contain the expansion of the money supply (M3) within 15.5 per cent in the current financial year as against 18.2 per cent in 1993-94 and 21.4 per cent (provisional) in 1994-95. The growth of money supply (M3) has been projected at 15.5 per cent keeping in view the likely real growth of 5.5 per cent in Gross Domestic Product and the objective of limiting the inflation rate of around 8 per cent during 1995-96.

Among the measures introduced in this policy by RBI are (i) upward revision in the ceiling interest rate on domestic term deposits of scheduled commercial banks from 11 per cent to 12 per cent (ii) increase in the interest rate on post shipment export credit in U.S. dollar from 6.5 per cent to 7.5 per cent and the interest rate on refinance against such credit from 5.5 per cent to 6.5 per cent (iii) banning of bridge loan by banks and financial institutions and (iv) reduction in the limit of borrowings by different categories of non-bank financial companies from the banks. The prime lending rate of several commercial banks have also since been revised upward following the upward revision in the interest rate on deposit rates. The Government also has programmed to reduce fiscal deficit from 6.7 per cent of GDP in 1994-95 (RE) to 5.5 per cent of GDP in 1995-96 (BE).

There has been a decelerating trend in the annual rate of inflation (based on the Wholesale Price Index) from the beginning of the current financial year and it now stands at 8.5 per cent as on May 6, 1995.

[Translation]

Construction of Bridges in Iraq

7310 SHRI RAJVEER SINGH Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the bridge construction work in Iraq was undertaken through Exim Bank,

(b) if so, the name of the State Bridge Corporation which has undertaken this work indicating the amount involved therein;

(c) whether the payment of the amount spent thereon has been made to the concerned Corporation,

(d) if so, the details thereof,

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM) (a) Yes, Sir. 5 bridge construction projects were undertaken in Iraq through Exim Bank,

(b) UP State Bridge Corporation; the amount, as receivable on 17.11.93, was US \$ 4603,236.07 (Rs 144,541,612.60).

(c) and (d). Payment of Rs. 139,608,307.60 has been made, as below :

RBI bonds	Rs. 120,236,771.60
ECGC bonds	Rs. 3,304,216.00
ECGC-in cash	Rs. 21,000,625.00

(e) and (f). The balance amount could not be paid earlier by ECGC due to technical reasons, but now ECGC has decided to release it.

Writing Off of Loans

7311 SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI · DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR ·

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state .

(a) whether the Government contemplate to make it obligatory for the public sector banks to refer all cases of loan to the Special Recovery Tribunal prior to writing them off or signing any agreement in regard thereto in respect of which the loan limit or outstanding loan has been more than ten lakh rupees,

(b) if so, the present position in this regard; and

(c) if not, the steps proposed to be taken to inquire into the irregular writing off/signing agreement in respect of the accounts having huge amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M V CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) (a) to (c) There is no proposal regarding making it obligatory on public sector banks to seek approval of Special Recovery Tribunals before writing off or entering into a compromise in respect of loans exceeding Rs. 10 lakhs. Reserve Bank of India has, however, issued guidelines to the banks regarding write off and compromise proposals

Vocational Rehabilitation Centre

7312. SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state ·

(a) whether several intercom telephone lines have been installed recently in the Vocational Rehabilitation Centre for Handicapped, Pusa, New Delhi;

(b) whether there was any requirement for installing such telephone system in the aforesaid centre,

(c) whether the expenditure incurred in this regard was as per the norms; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (d). Twelve intercom telephone lines have been purchased from M/s Uptron India Ltd., a Government of