

(b) The tourist arrivals during 1993-94 were 1.87 million and the estimated foreign exchange earnings from them were Rs.6509 crores (revised).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

2818. DR.P.R.GANGWAR:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether carpet, darri and textile industries are violating labour laws to a great extent;

(b) number of cases of such violations of labour laws committed during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against the Industrialists violating labour laws?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A.SANGMA):

(a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Toning up Operations of SIDBI

2819. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently decided to tone up the operations and functioning of Small Industries Development Bank of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with plans drawn up in this regard;

(c) whether SIDBI has failed in achieving its objectives considerably in meeting the financial requirements of small industries in the country; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to become an efficient functionary?

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

(a) and (b). With a view to supplementing the efforts of commercial banks in stepping up the flow of assistance to Small Scale Industrial (SSI) sector and cottage and village industries, Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has been effecting liberalisation of existing schemes, simplification of procedures and introduction of new schemes to fill the gaps in existing structure of credit delivery mechanism. SIDBI's efforts have resulted in increased flow of assistance to units in the SSI sector. During the last four years, the assistance provided by SIDBI registered a compound growth rate of 12.4% in sanction and 13.9% in disbursement.

(c) and (d). SIDBI has reported that in line with the trend in operations during the last four years, its operations in the current year have also been steadily growing. SIDBI has recorded a growth rate of 34% in sanction and 22% in disbursement during the period April, 1994 to February, 1995 as compared to the corresponding period in the previous year.

Calcutta Airport

2820. SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the contract labourers engaged at Calcutta airport have been denied basic amenities like rest room, dining centre and medical facilities etc; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the remedial steps Government propose to take?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b). Facilities of staff canteen, ESI Scheme, medical aids at airport are extended to the employees of the contractors. However, rest room facilities are not provided to the employees of the contractors because they are required to perform duty in the passenger terminal or operational area for specific number of hours without any break.

Smuggling of Gold

2821. SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of illegal gold seized in the country during the last six months and the total value thereof;

(b) the number of persons arrested in this connection; and

(c) the stringent action proposed to be taken by the Government to check the illegal smuggling of gold?

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

(a) Quantity & value of gold seized in the country during last six months is as follows:

Quantity	Value
522 kgs	Rs.2446 lakhs

(b) Information is being collected and shall be laid on the table of the House.

(c) Strict action under Customs Act, 1962 by imposition of stringent penalty in adjudication proceeding is taken to deter illegal smuggling of gold. In serious cases of smuggling of gold offenders are prosecuted and detained under Conservation of Foreign Exchange & Prevention of Smuggling Activities (COFEPOSA) Act 1974.

[English]

Income Tax Raids

2822. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No.2938 on August, 12, 1994 regarding Income Tax Raids and state: