

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

[English]

Block Search Assessments

917. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been invited to the news item captioned "Fine tuning of block search assessments on" appearing in The Hindu Business Line, New Delhi, dated May 20, 1995;

(b) if so, the facts of the Matter reported therein; and

(c) the extent upto which this has resulted in ensuring maximum revenue realisation?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news item purportedly referred to the procedure to be followed for assessment of search cases under the amended law, which had been discussed in the conference of Chief Commissioners/Directors General held in April, 1995. Subsequently the details of the procedure have been finalised and appropriate instructions have been issued to the field officers. These are to govern the assessments in cases of search conducted on or after 1.7.95.

(c) The "block period" assessment scheme is applicable to the searches to the conducted on or after 1.7.95. Results of revenue realisation are not known since no block period assessment has been completed till date.

Indo-swedish Trade Relation

918. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to expand Indo-Swedish trade relation;

(b) if so, the details of programme drawn-up thereof; and

(c) the details of areas identified for the expansion of trade relations between both the countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) It is Government's endeavour to expand bilateral trade with all the trading partners including Sweden. Steps taken for promotion of bilateral trade and economic cooperation include regular meetings of the Indo-Swedish Joint Commission/Joint Business Council besides exchanges of trade delegations, participation in trade fairs, and undertaking market surveys.

(c) Some items with potential for exports to Sweden are processed foods, leather and its manufactures, cotton and silk fabrics/garments, handicrafts, computer software, automotive/electric components, and marine products.

Modernisation of Technique of handloom Weaving

919. SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have introduced any scheme to modernise the technique of handloom weaving;

(b) whether the traditional weavers have been encouraged to apply the modern technique in the handloom sector; and

(c) if so, the aid and assistance given to the traditional handloom weavers of Rajasthan for the above purpose during the Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) The Weavers Service Centres located throughout the country are, inter alia, engaged in research and development of modern techniques of weaving including training of weavers to adopt such techniques. Besides, the Project Package Scheme and Integrated Handloom Village Development Scheme which are currently being implemented by the Government also provide requisite assistance to weavers in this field.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) On the basis of proposals received from the State Government of Rajasthan, a sum of Rs. 110.3325th lakhs has been released to them during the Eighth Five Year Plan under the Project Package Scheme and Integrated Handloom Village Development Scheme for Handloom Weavers.

Employment on Compassionate Grounds in GIC

920. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the policy being followed by the GIC and its subsidiaries for providing employment on compassionate grounds in the event of death of its employee while in service;

(b) the number of cases in GIC and its four subsidiaries in which the dependants of the deceased employees had applied for appointment on compassionate grounds during the last one year;

(c) the number of cases out of them disposed of so far;

(d) the reasons for not taking any decision in regard to other cases; and