

(a) whether the Government have a programme to develop air traffic control system based on satellite technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of the international airports in the country where this system is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Airports Authority of India have taken up the projects of Automatic Dependent Surveillance System, Global Positioning System and Satellite Communication Network for voice and data communication for development of Satellite based Air Traffic Control Systems.

(c) The systems are to be provided at Bombay, Calcutta, Madras & Delhi international airports.

[English]

Assistant Administrative Officers in L.I.C.

3347. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corporation of India have recently invited applications for the post of the Assistant Administrative Officers from the candidates having a minimum 50% marks in the aggregate in Bachelor's degree ignoring the claims of other candidates having less than 50% marks in graduation;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware of a large number of cases in which the High Courts and the Supreme Court have issued directives to the concerned departments that the candidates must be allowed/called at a minimum qualification for the purpose irrespective of considering higher marks in the degree examination or educational Board's examination; and

(c) if so, the remedial steps proposed to be taken in this regard? .

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

(b) and (c): Requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House

Beedi Workers

3348. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of Beedi workers and the

number of workers covered under the Employees' State Insurance Corporation;

(b) the number of hospitals and dispensaries that cater to the health needs of Beedi workers; and

(c) the steps taken to provide benefits of welfare schemes set up specifically for Beedi workers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) The approximate number of beedi workers is 42.59 lakhs, out of which 21,725 workers have been covered under the Employees' State Insurance Scheme.

(b) A chain of 155 dispensaries and 3 hospitals have been set up under the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund all over the country exclusively for beedi workers.

(c) Beedi Workers are provided with various welfare facilities such as education, housing, medical and recreation under the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1976.

Restructuring of BIFR

3349. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have ever made an assessment of the achievements of the BIFR in removing sickness in industries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years;

(c) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the proceedings of the seminar on "Industrial Development Review of India" organised by Confederation of Indian Industry in New Delhi on July 18, 1995 wherein the functioning and efficiency of the BIFR was severely criticised;

(d) if so, the details of the recommendations made at the aforesaid seminar; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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 references received under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision) Act, 1985 (SICA) are dealt with in accordance with the provisions of that Act. BIFR has streamlined its procedures, reduced the time lag hearing and shortened the overall duration of proceedings so as to ensure expeditious disposal of references. The BIFR has further reported that 1703 references were registered with it as on 30.06.1995. The break-up of these cases is as under:

1. References registered	1703
2. Dismissed as non-maintainable	359

3. Rehabilitation schemes approved/sanctioned	483
4. Winding up recommended	383
5. Others (two references from Courts and in eleven network turned positive and two cases dropped)	15
6. Decisions taken (total of 2 to 5)	1240
7. Pending at various stages	463

BIFR has reported that the time taken for disposal of cases is coming down. While the average time taken for disposal of cases registered with BIFR during 1987 to 1991 was 739 days, the average time taken for disposal of case registered during 1992 and 1993 was 457 days and 196 days respectively. For the year 1994, the average time taken for cases already disposed of was 105 days.

(c) to (e): A seminar on Industrial Development Review of India was organised by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) on July 18, 1995 in cooperation with the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) and United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) to mark the release of the book entitled 'India- Industrial Development Review.' Certain observations were made during the course of the seminar on various issues relating to industrial development including functioning of BIFR.

Revival of Sick P.S.U.s

3350. PROF. SUSANTA CHAKRABORTY:

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any packages for revival of sick Central Public Sector Units have recently been approved by BIFR;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the status of their implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c): The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that revival packages under section 18 (4) of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 have been sanctioned by it during the period January 1995 to July 1995 in respect of the following four central public sector undertakings (CPSUs):

1. Vignyan Industries Limited
2. Bharat Brakes and Valves Limited
3. Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Limited

4. Bengal Immunity Limited

Revival schemes in respect of the above CPSUs are under various stages of implementation.

Drug Trafficking

3351. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large amount of money is being generated due to drug trafficking, posing a threat to internal security;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps contemplated by the Government to prevent it?

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

(a) and (b) : Drug trafficking generates lucrative profits, which are often used for nefarious activities.

(c) Instructions have been issued to all the enforcement agencies to maintain the utmost vigil and step up enforcement efforts under the stringent provisions contained in NDPS Act. Training is being imparted to officers to improve their effectiveness. Vehicles and communication equipments have been provided. A part of Indo-Pak border has been fenced. BSF and Coast Guard, who are deployed on land and coastal borders have been vested with the powers under the Customs Act to interdict narcotic drugs on the border in addition to the Central and State Government enforcement agencies empowered under the NDPS Act.

[Translation]

Consignment of Drugs

3352. SHRICHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a consignment of drugs and Narcotics amounting to around 5 crore rupees has reached and unloaded in Jamnagar district of Gujarat two months ago and the same has been sailed off to America via Dubai-Somalia via ship carrying sheeps and goats as reported in some newspapers of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any enquiry into this development through police, CID, CBI and other various intelligence agencies;

(d) if so, the outcome of the enquiry; and

(e) the action taken against the guilty persons?