

Consultation with States at the time of Formulation of Export Policy

6569. SHRI CHITTA MAHATA:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chief Ministers have asked the Centre to consult the States while formulating the export policy; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE):
(a) No such request has been received so far from any State Chief Minister.

(b) In view of (a), this does not arise.

Writing off of Income Tax Arrears below Rupees One Lakh

6570. SHRI CHITTA MAHATA:
SHRI MOHD. ASRAR AHMAD:
SHRI MANPHOOL SINGH CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to write-off income-tax arrears of tax payers who were required to pay Rupees one lakh and below; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) No, Sir. However, instructions were issued in February, 1980 for reviewing all entries of arrear demand up to Rs. 200 which were outstanding on 31.3.79 for over 5 years and to write off such entries in 'non-live' cases as a 'one time' operation. As of March 1980, on the basis, of provisional figures, Rs. 1.44 crores has been written off in such cases.

(b) Continuance of recovery proceedings in the type of cases referred to in reply to part (a) above was not considered worthwhile in view of the cost of the effort involved and the

uncertainty of realisations in such cases.

Rural Credit Survey carried out by Reserve Bank

6571. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that the Reserve Bank or nationalised banks have not carried out any rural credit survey till recent past;

(b) whether he is aware of the fact that taking advantage of lack of banks in the rural areas of West Bengal unscrupulous traders speculator and hoarders are forcing the growers to make distress sales of their produce; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken to change the situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) Reserve Bank conducts Rural Credit Debt Survey every ten years. Three such surveys have been conducted on an All India basis with reference to 1950-51, 1960-61 and 1970-71. Preparations for launching a country-wide survey as part of the 36th Round of National Sample Survey early in 1981 are already on hand. Detailed plans are being formulated by a Working Group constituted by the National Sample Survey Organisation.

(b) and (c) As regards measures for avoiding distress sale of agricultural produce by growers immediately following the harvests, Cooperative Societies issue "Pledge Loans" to the members to allow them to hold on to their produce in expectation of higher prices. Reserve Bank of India have also instructed commercial banks that for loans to farmers up to Rs. 25,00, the due date of recovery may be extended by three months from the date of harvesting. Further, under the New Licensing Policy for commercial banks, plans have been and are being drawn up in consultation with the West Bengal Government for opening as many as 785 additional bank offices