

(c) to what extent this panel is likely to curb the menace of black money in the country;

(d) the amount of black money as per IMF assessment and as per assessment of Government prevalent in the country as on July 31, 1997;

(e) the percentage of its constitute the whole gross domestic product (GDP) of the country as on July 31, 1997; and

(f) the steps taken by Government to minimise it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) Economic Intelligence Council has been constituted with a view to strengthen coordination and evolving an integrated strategy to combat economic crimes. The Newspaper report in the Times of India of July, 4, 1997 gives some information on the working of this Economic Intelligence Council. A better coordination among the various enforcement agencies will enhance the success of measures designed to curb the menace of black money in the country.

(d) to (f) There is no official estimate of the amount of black money at present in circulation in the country. The National Institute of Public Finance and Policy had estimated black money between Rs. 31,584 crores to Rs. 36,784 crores in the year 1983-84. Thereafter no authentic study has been made on this subject. The Govt. have been taking necessary legislative, fiscal and administrative measures as deemed appropriate from time to time to curb growth of black money. The rates of taxation have been progressively rationalised. Besides, the Income Tax Act, 1961 contains a number of provisions aimed at curbing the generation of black money. These include, inter-alia, provisions regarding compulsory maintenance and audit of account in appropriate cases under Section 44AA and 44AB, restriction on cash transactions under section 40A(3), 269SS and 269T, pre-emptive purchase of property under chapter XXC and provisions regarding penalties and prosecutions for punishing tax defaulters were made. The Act also contains provisions regarding summons, surveys and searches etc. to detect tax evasion.

[English]

Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary

1658. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether an aggregate amount of Rs. 1439.51 crores is due from the Union Government to the Government of Maharashtra since April, 1993 to March, 1997 under the Centrally sponsored scheme for providing grant to the States for developing infrastructural facilities of capital nature for the judiciary;

(b) if so, the reasons for accumulation of such a huge amount of dues; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to clear these dues ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) No, Sir. The expenditure in respect of High Courts and subordinate Courts, which also includes the provision of infrastructural facilities, is to be met by the concerned State Government. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the development of infrastructural facilities for the judiciary was introduced from 1993-94 with the aim of augmenting the resources of the State Governments. The scheme is confined to construction of Court Buildings and residences for the Judges. The amount received from the Planning Commission is allocated to the different States/UTs on the basis of the criteria laid down for this purpose by the Planning Commission. On the basis of these criteria, an amount of Rs. 1279.30 lakhs had been released to Maharashtra from 1993-94 to 1996-97. For the current Financial year 1997-98, an amount of Rs. 315.71 lakhs has tentatively been allocated to Maharashtra, out of which the first instalment of Rs. 158.00 lakhs has already been released. One of the main criteria of the scheme is that the State Government must come forward with a matching share to the amount released by the Central Government. However, the State Governments are free to spend additional amounts depending upon their resources.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Foreign Visits of Judges

1659. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the Hon'ble judges who visited foreign countries and the countries they visited during each of the last three years;

(b) the amount incurred on such visits by the Union/ State Governments or any other State agency; and

(c) whether such visits were official or otherwise and the period, they remained abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Selection Committee for PMRY

1660. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is participation of banks in the Selection Committee constituted under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojna (PMRY) launched by the Government;

(b) if so, the time likely to be taken by the banks in disposing of the loan cases under PMRY;

(c) whether the banks returned the cases relating to loans sanctioned by the loan Committee; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor ?

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THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that while banks are associated in the process of Selection of borrowers under PMRY as members so the Task Force Committee (TFC) formed for the purpose at District/Sub-Divisional/Block Levels, all banks in a district/block may not be members of the TFC.

(b) to (d) As per extant guidelines, applications for sanction of loans upto Rs. 25,000/- are to be disposed off within fortnight and those which are above 25,000/-, within 8-9 weeks. RBI have further reported that the decision to extend credit is left to the bank branch processing the loan applications. The reasons for returning the loan applications by banks, inter-alia, include (i) income of borrower exceeding the limit (ii) borrower already assisted under other schemes (iii) borrower already gainfully employed (iv) borrower being a defaulter to other banks and (v) Project being not viable/bankable. It has, therefore, been provided in the PMRY guidelines that TFC should sponsor applications equal to 150% of the target fixed to enable banks to achieve targets allotted even after rejection of a portion of applications sponsored to them. Banks have also been allowed to receive the applications directly from eligible borrowers and forward the same to the TFCs with their views on the viability of the project/activity so that TFCs may sponsor such applications to the same bank branches for sanction of loan. The banks have been advised by RBI that they should indicate the specific reasons for rejection of applications sponsored to them by the TFCs.

Import of Rough Ophthalmic Blanks

1661. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the FERA authorities are aware that the Commissioner of Customs in a case under investigation by SIIB New Customs House, New Delhi pertaining to import of Rough Ophthalmic Blanks from China had ordered for considering the price list of M/s Sumec China Jiangsu Machinery and Equipment Import and Export (Group) Corporation, China as the base for valuation of ROB imported from China by other importers who had on the basis of invoices of other suppliers from China by grossly getting the invoices under-invoiced of the same item have cleared their consignment;

(b) if so, the reasons for not complying with the above orders and releasing the withheld consignments on the basis of valuation done on the basis of price list of M/s China North Industries Beijing Corporation, China which is 30% less in value than the Sumec China prices thereby causing a huge customs duty loss to the Government and other agencies; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken in this regard as the difference in the invoiced prices has been transferred to the suppliers by way of Hawala transactions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) In a case of

import of Rough Ophthalmic Blanks, where the Bill of Entry was filed in October, 1996 by a Delhi based importer, it was observed that, on a comparison of the prices between the supplier, M/s. China North Industries Beijing Corporation, with those of M/s. Sumec China, the prices of the former were, on an average, lower by 18.71%. A show cause Notice was accordingly issued, wherein it was proposed to enhance the assessable value from Rs. 22.46 lakhs to Rs. 26.67 lakhs. At the time of adjudication, however, the assessable value furnished by the importer was accepted, on the ground that the goods supplied by M/s. Sumec were different, in respect of both quality as well as quantity, from the ones supplied by M/s. China North Industries. The prices declared by the assessee were found to be arrived at through normal negotiations, and were based on commercial considerations and the invoices were also certified by the Chinese Embassy in India, as well as the China Council for promotion of International Trade.

Since the declared value has been accepted, no action is proposed to be taken against the importer and therefore, the question of referring the matter to the FERA authorities does not arise.

Export to Indonesia

1662. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the different items exported to Indonesia at present;

(b) the total export of those items during each of the last three years, item-wise; and

(c) the projection made for the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) The basket of India's exports to Indonesia is highly diversified. The details of some major items of India's export to Indonesia during the last three years are as follows :-

		(Value in US \$ Million)		
S.No.	Product	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
	1	2	3	4
1.	Oil Meals	92.32	101.56	132.82
2.	Cotton raw incl. waste	10.31	6.37	73.33
3.	Primary & semi-finished Iron & Steel	25.76	42.72	53.78
4.	Sugar & Molasses	NIL	35.16	52.79
5.	Groundnut	12.70	31.27	48.23
6.	Machinery & Instruments	24.51	41.54	35.47