

- (a) if the information has since been collected;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the action taken by the Government thereon;
- and
- (d) if not, the reasons for delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The information has since been collected.

(b) Under the Central Excises Law, it is not necessary to obtain permission from the Commissioner of Central Excise to manufacture parts of branded goods. However, the duty exemption scheme for small scale units does not cover any goods bearing a brand name or trade name of another person. Cases have been booked against 109 industrial units manufacturing branded goods for alleged evasion of central excise duty amounting to Rs. 741.64 lakhs during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96. In this regard, Show Cause Notices have already been issued to 95 units.

(c) On the basis of the information received, the Assurance given to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4377 has been fulfilled on 29.5.97 within the stipulated time of 3 months.

- (d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

National Savings

1650. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is a downward trend in National Savings/collections since 1995-96;
- (b) if so, the extent of decline;
- (c) the causes of the downward trend;
- (d) whether the rate of interest offered on National Savings Securities are lower than that of commercial banks;
- (e) if so, the difference in the said interest rates;
- (f) whether the Government propose to consider increasing the interest rate on National Savings Securities; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE : (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir. The gross collections in the various small savings schemes launched by Govt. of India show an increasing trend in 1996-97 over 1995-96. Final figures for 1996-97 are awaited.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) and (g) At present, there is no such proposal under consideration with Government.

Income Tax Tribunal

1651. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a demand for setting up of a bench of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal at Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A demand has been made for setting up of a Bench of the Income-tax Appellate Tribunal at Vijayawada.

(c) It has not been found possible to accede to this demand. However, Government has recently approved the setting up of a Bench of the Tribunal at Visakhapatnam.

Manufacturing of Tyre by Multinational Companies

1652. SHRI CHANDRABHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have permitted Multinational companies to manufacture tyre in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the companies to whom permission has been accorded;

(c) whether the Government held any discussions with the indigenous tyre industry prior to granting permission to the said multinational companies;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government to protect the interest of indigenous tyre industry?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) As per the present policy, no permission or Industrial Licence is required to manufacture tyres and other rubber products in the country. Some of the Indian tyre manufacturers like M/s. Goodyear India Ltd., M/s. Dunlop India Ltd., M/s. Bridgestone ACC India Ltd. etc. have gone in for financial as well as technical collaboration with foreign companies to manufacture Automotive/Radial tyres. The details of foreign investment/technical collaboration are published in the SIA Newsletter from time to time, copies of which are regularly placed in the Parliament House Library.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Rubber Parks

1653. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state: