

(d) Tax Laws, including penalty and prosecution provisions therein are reviewed periodically, taking into account all relevant views expressed in this regard.

Commerce Minister's Visit to Brussels

74. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SHRI ANAND SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether during his recent visit to Brussels he had a meeting with an Israeli Minister;

(b) whether this meeting was formal or personal in nature;

(c) whether this has caused a misunderstanding in Government, diplomatic and international circles; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken to clear the misunderstanding?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDASPATEL): (a) to (d). No official meeting took place between the Indian and Israeli delegation at any level during Commerce Minister's visit to Brussels. However, as the sitting arrangement in international conferences are in alphabetical order and consequently the Indian and Israeli delegation were seated near each other, conversation between the Commerce Minister and his Israeli counterpart was inevitable. As we do not maintain any official level contact with Israel and have no trade issues with Israel, such conversation caused no misunderstanding.

Expenditure by Nationalised Banks

75. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the first seven nationalised banks whose expenditure has been highest during 1989-90 and 1990-91, separately;

(b) whether any directions have been issued by the Government/Reserve Bank of India to the nationalised banks to curb expenditure; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The names of the seven nationalised banks whose expenditure as per their published balance sheets has been highest for the period ended March, 1990 are indicated below:

<i>S.No.</i>	<i>Name of the Bank</i>
1.	Bank of India
2.	Bank of Baroda
3.	Canara Bank
4.	Punjab National Bank
5.	Central Bank of India
6.	UCO Bank
7.	Syndicate Bank

The accounts for the period ending March, 1991 are yet to be finalised.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Government have impressed upon the public sector banks including nationalised banks the need for effecting economy in expenditure. Banks have been specifically advised to take measures to curtail expenditure on consumption of petroleum/diesel,