

(b) the average life of such notes ;

(c) the cost incurred on coins of these denominations and their life span ; and

(d) the time span for phasing out such currency notes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) No foreign exchange is being spent on printing of currency notes of Re. 1 and Rs. 2 denominations.

(b) The average life of Re. 1 and Rs. 2 currency notes is about six months and one year respectively.

(c) The cost incurred on coins of these denominations and their life span is given below :

Denomination	Cost (per piece)	Life-span
Re. 1 (Cupro-Nickel)	Rs. 1.61	15-20 years
Re. 1 (Stainless Steel)	90 paise	20-30 years
Rs. 2 (Cupro-Nickel)	Rs. 1.95	15-20 years

(d) The expected time span for phasing out such currency notes is 1995-96.

New Labour Policy for Employment Generation

330. SHRI SHARVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether a workshop on "new labour policy for employment generation" was held at Bombay on September 26, 1993 ;

(b) if so, the main observations and suggestions made at the workshop ;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ;

(d) whether the new labour policy has since been formulated ; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) to (e) According to available information a workshop on "New Labour Policy and Thrust on Employment Generation" was organised by the All-India Manufacturers' Organisation in Bombay on 25-9-93. The recommendations of the workshop have not yet been sent to Government. Amendments to the Industrial Disputes Act and Trade Unions Act are still under formulation.

Streamlining Customs Procedure for Movement of Shipping Cargo

331. PROF. RAM KAPSE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any scheme for streamlining customs procedure has been prepared by a Committee to speed up movements of shipping cargo in the context of doubling exports ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) and (b) No committee has been specifically set up by the Ministry of Finance to work out a scheme for streamlining customs procedures to speed up movement of shipping cargo in the context of increasing exports. However, a number of measures have been taken over the last two years for rationalisation of the tariff structure and simplification of Customs & Central Excise procedure. For this purpose the Government has taken into consideration the recommendation made by the Tax Reforms Committee headed by Dr. Raja J. Chelliah as also the interim reports of the High Powered Committee of experts on indirect taxation headed by Shri K.L. Rekhi.

The important changes introduced in the customs procedures are as follows :—

Relaxation of norms for examination of export consignment.

(i) The consignments which have been examined and sealed by Central Excise Officers or by export inspection agencies,

Textile Committee, etc. are not required to be examined at the point of export except for random/intelligence based checks. Likewise, for export consignments belonging to established exporters having unblemished track record, routine examination of each consignment has been dispensed with.

(ii) The marine product consignments are now being allowed shipment without customs examination. Such consignments are cleared on the basis of self certification of exporters who have been authorised by the export inspection agencies to issue such certificates.

(iii) The requirement of obtaining a pre-shipment inspection certificate by exporters has been dispensed with in the case of exporters when overseas buyers do not want pre-shipment inspection and in case of exports by Star Trading House, trading houses, export houses.

(iv) Powers of assessments of import/export goods have been delegated to speed up clearances.
[Translation]

Loan Recovery Position

332. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA :

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :

SHRI N. K. BALIYAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the loan recovery position of Indian Banks has become worst at present as reported in the Nav Bharat Times, New Delhi dated October 26, 1993 ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the Government have taken any step to enhance the capacity of these banks and to create competitive zeal among them ; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINIS-
TRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The news report referred to in part (a) of the question refers to the position occupied by public sector banks among the 200 major Asian Banks as given in the magazine 'The Banker' of London. It has also been stated, inter alia, that recovery position of Indian banks is becoming worse.

(c) and (d) As per information available from Reserve Bank of India, the position of overdues of public sector banks as at the end of September 91 and September 92 was as under :

	No. of Accounts	(A/cs in lakhs) (Rs. in crores) Overdues Amount
September 91	177.34	17,967
September 92	119.20	14,805

From the above position, it may be observed that the overdue amount of Rs. 17,967 crores as at the end of Sept. 91 has come down to Rs. 14,805 crores at the end of Sept. 92. Similarly the number of accounts has also come down from 177.34 lakhs to 119.20 lakhs. Nevertheless, various steps have been taken by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to minimise the amount of overdues and also to improve the recovery performance of the commercial banks in respect of their advances to various sectors. Some of the important steps are as follows :

1. Banks have been impressed upon to institute a viable recovery system with a view to help recycling the scarce resources of the banks to the needy and productive sectors of the economy on the one hand, and to improve the profitability and viability of the lending banks, on the other.
2. Introduction of a comprehensive and uniform grading system to indicate the health of individual advances for the purpose of their effective monitoring and follow up.
3. To keep a watch on the recovery of top sticky accounts.
4. Taking corrective action where advances are found to have become sticky.