

in real terms, which had occurred because of the inflation differential between India and abroad in the previous couple of years. Thus, the overall movement in the nominal exchange rate of the rupee is broadly consistent with restoring India's competitiveness abroad. This will support export promotion and import substitution activities, and will improve the foreign trade balance and the overall balance of payments. The overall movement is also consistent with the longer term objective of viable balance of payments based on strong competitiveness

Trade Deficit

*146. SHRI DATTA MEGHE :
DR RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of trade deficit of the country during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96.

(b) whether there has been increase in trade deficit during the above period:

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). As per available data from DGCI & S, the trade deficit of the country during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 (Provisional) are US \$ 1069 million, US \$ 2324 million and US \$ 4539 million respectively.

(c) The trade deficit has risen mainly due to increase in imports of essential commodities like petroleum and fertilisers, items of mass consumption like edible oil and higher imports of capital goods, raw materials and intermediate goods required for accelerated industrial production and Exports.

(d) The key to narrowing trade deficit lies in accelerated export growth. Export Promotion measures are continuously being taken by the Government through policy and promotional schemes, measures taken to promote exports include simplification of export-import policy and procedures, improving efficiency & competitiveness, focussing on quality and technology upgradation and efforts to actively involve the State

Governments in export promotion. Export promotion is a continuing activity based on interactions with industry, trade and other export promotional institutions.

Expenditure on Candidates for Election

*147. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large number of independent candidates are fighting elections to certain Assembly and Parliamentary seats;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to curb the uncalled expenditure on their security and other administrative expenditure and to obviate the difficulties of the electorate; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government is considering various measures to discourage non-serious candidates from contesting elections. These, amongst others, include increase in the security deposit, increase in the minimum percentage of votes required to be polled to save forfeiture of security deposits and listing of names in the ballot paper of candidates of recognised political parties above the names of independent candidates.

Economic Policy

*148. SHRI PR. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government's liberal economic policy has hit the PSUs growth and competitive skill, and

(b) if so, what steps Govt. has taken or propose to take to make the PSUs more competitive and stronger?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Trends in key parameters reflecting the growth of Central Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) from 1990-91 to 1993-94 (the latest year for which the information are available) as given below indicate that the performance of PSEs has improved to some extent since the new Industrial Policy was initiated in July, 1991 :

Trends of Key Economic Parameters of Central Public Sector Enterprises from 1990-91 to 1993-94.

Indicators	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
1	2	3	4	5
1. Number of operating Enterprises	236	237	239	240
2. Capital employed (CE) (Rs. crores)	102084	117991	140110	159307

	1	2	3	4	5
3. Profitability ratios :					
(a) Gross margin to CE (%)		17.94	18.83	18.01	17.33
(b) Gross profits to CE (%)		10.88	11.59	11.39	11.57
(c) Net profits to CE (%)		2.23	2.00	2.33	2.78
4. Value of exports (Rs. crores)		7086	8980	10338	11936
5. Value added (Rs. crores)		31922	35213	38509	41466

(b) Several steps have been taken by the Government to improve efficiency of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) including strengthening the Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) with public sector enterprises, delegation of more powers to the Board of Directors, allowing PSUs to form joint ventures and the raise fresh equity from the market, disinvestment of Government equity in selected PSUs, reference of sick companies to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), establishment of National Renewable Fund (NRF) to facilitate training and redeployment of workers and to finance voluntary retirement scheme (VRS)

[Translation]

Capital Investment in Public Sector

*149 JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) the number of industrial units being run in the public sector at the end of 1991-92 and 1995-96;

(b) the amount of capital investment made in these units during 1991-92 and 1995-96;

(c) the number of workers working in these units year-wise during the above years separately;

(d) whether the amount of losses in these units has also increased during the last three years; and

(e) if so, the extent of increase in losses suffered during 1995-96 as compared to 1993-94?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) Details showing the number of Central PSUs, capital investment and number of employees in them at the end of 1991-92 and 1993-94, upto which period only information is available, is given below :

	No of Central PSUs	Investment by way of equity & loan (Rs. in crores)	No of regular employees (in lakhs)
At the end of 1991-92	246	135445	21.84
At the end of 1993-94	246	164332	20.69

(d) and (e). Out of the 246 PSEs during 1991-92, 102 PSEs incurred loss of Rs. 3723 crores and during 1993-94, 117 PSEs incurred loss of Rs. 5287 crores. However all PSEs taken together earned overall profit of Rs. 2355 crores in 1991-92 and Rs. 4435 crores in 1993-94.

[English]

Income Tax due against Foreign Banks

*150 SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the names of the foreign banks in India which are defaulters in payment of income tax as on date;

(b) the amount due against each of the banks; and

(c) the steps taken by Government so far to recover the said amount?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) The names of foreign banks against whom Income-tax demand remained outstanding as on 1-7-1996 are as under :-

S No.	Name of the Foreign Bank	Amount Outstanding as on 1-7-1996 (Rs. in crores)
1	2	3
1.	Deutsche Bank	29.42
2.	Credit Lyonnais	00.30
3.	Hong Kong & Shanghai Bank	6.05
4.	Bank of Bahrain & Kuwait	1.25
5.	Oman International Bank	42.10
6.	Standard Chartered Bank	8.98
7.	Banque Indosuez	12.15
8.	Banque National De Paris	164.19
9.	Mashreq Bank (Bank of Oman)	0.70
10.	Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank	2.50
11.	Societe Generale	0.28
12.	American Express Bank	6.99