

Settlement Commission (IT & WT)

3648. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN :
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Settlement Commission (IT & WT) is a quasi judicial body;

(b) the present composition of the Commission;

(c) whether all the posts of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and members are being filled up out of the serving/retired officers of Indian Revenue Service and no representation in the Commission has so far been given to any judicial officer; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Settlement Commission (IT & WT) has a Principal Bench at Delhi and three Additional Benches at Bombay, Calcutta and Madras. The Chairman presides over the Principal Bench and the Additional Benches are presided over by Vice-Chairman. Each bench has, in addition, two posts of Members.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Appointments of Chairman, Vice-chairman and Members of the Commission are made in accordance with the provisions of section 245B(3) of the Income-tax Act which require persons having special knowledge of, and experience in, problems relating to direct taxes and business accounts to be drafted for the same. Since

only the officers of Indian Revenue Service possess this knowledge and experience. Officers belonging to other disciplines are not being considered.

[Translation]

Bank Lockers

3649: SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH :

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :

SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the monopoly of the Banks in providing Lockers to the public is decreasing and there has been an increase in the number of private bank lockers service centres in Delhi ;

(b) whether the Government propose to frame any law to check the growth of such private centres;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the number of authorised Government 'Bank Lockers' in the country is much less than the demand therefor;

(e) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government to increase their number to meet the demand; and

(f) the existing number of bank lockers available in the capital?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED)

(a) to (c). It is understood that some private locker services are being provided in Delhi. Since the activities of the private parties setting up safe deposit lockers do not come within the purview of the provisions of Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 and the Packing regulation Act, 1949, there is no proposal under consideration of Reserve Bank of India to supervise/control the operations of these services.

(d) and (e). Keeping in view the lack of availability of safe deposit lockers, the Goiporia Committee on Customer Service in Banks recommends that banks should provide more and more locker facilities, especially in residential areas, having regard to commercial viability. Banks have been advised to implement the recommendation.

(f) Information relating to the number of bank lockers available in the capital is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Import of Raw Sugar

3650. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:
SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are allowing raw sugar to be imported for processing the same for exports;

(b) whether the cost of processing would not be beneficial for determination of export price; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c). Import of raw sugar for processing and export of white sugar under Duty Exemption Scheme has been allowed subject to the condition as laid down in Public Notice No.184(PN)/92-97 dated the 17 December, 1993. Copies of the said Public Notice are available in Parliament Library.

Pre-shipment Credit Facilities.

3651. SHRI G. DEVARAYA NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has recently issued guidelines for extending the facility of pre-shipment credit in foreign currency to exporters;

(b) if so, the details of the guidelines issued; and

(c) the reaction of the exports thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. RBI has issued guidelines for extending the facility of pre-shipment credit in foreign currency to exports on 8 November, 1993. The facility will be available in the convertible currencies and the Scheme will cover cash exports only. The Scheme covers both the domestic as well as imported inputs of the exported goods. The facility will be available for a period of 180 days on the basis of