

(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

firm export order of confirm L/C. The ultimate cost to the exporter will not exceed 2% over 6 months LIBOR excluding withholding tax.

(c) The Scheme has been generally welcomed by the exporters as indicated during discussion with export organisation.

[Translation]

Tax Evasion

3652. SHRI LAL BABU RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints regarding tax evasion received by the Income-Tax Commissioners from the Members of Parliament during the last two years;

(b) whether any action has been taken on those complaints;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Export Of Raw-leather.

3653. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any target has been fixed for export of raw-leather during the current year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

RBI Restriction on Loans Against Shares

3654. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI has imposed restrictions upon Indian investors on loan against shares and not upon foreign investors;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the Government propose to withdraw the restrictions?

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). The guidelines regarding advances against the security of shares and debentures/bonds are issued by the Reserve Bank of India to bank operating in India. Status of the investor borrowing from the banks is not the criterion for applicability of the guidelines. The extant guidelines are considered appropriate.

Increase in Cargo Handling Charges

3655. PROF. SAVITRI LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been steep up-