

steep hike in bank service charges, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Indian Banks Association have requested all the commercial banks to keep on hold the proposed hike in banks service charges;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reactions of the banks thereto; and

(f) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Indian Bank's Association (IBA) have reported that though the question of revision of service charges has been under consideration for some time, no decision has been taken in this regard.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The representatives of the All India Bank Depositors' Association and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry which met the Managing Committee of IBA have suggested the need for ratio-nalisation of charges in respect of some services.

(d) to (f). The Managing Committee of IBA have constituted a sub-committee of chief executives of five member banks to consider the representations received and all relevant issues regarding revision of service charges. A view will be taken on the issue after the sub-committee submits its recommendations.

Sale of NSCs

1064. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total sale of National Savings Certificates during 1993-94;

(b) the shortfall in the sales during 1993-94 compared to 1992-93;

(c) whether the deposits made to Unit Trust of India and other Mutual Funds are repayable after three years;

(d) whether people are losing interest in investing on NSCs because of locking period of six years; and

(e) if so, whether there is any proposal to reduce the locking period for NSCs to three years as in UTI and other investments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The total sale (gross collection) of National Savings Certificates VIII Issues during 1993-94 (provisional) were Rs. 2266.16 crores showing an increase of Rs. 403.34 crores over the sale during 1992-93 (provisional).

(c) The Equity-linked Savings Schemes of Mutual Funds have three-year lock-in period.

(d) The total sale in National Savings Certificates VIII Issues during 1993-94 was higher than that during 1992-93.

(e) Does not arise.

Aluminium Production

1065. SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to withdraw import duty on alu-

minium so as to bring the domestic price at par with the international price;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the month-wise details of the production, import and consumption of aluminium from January to June 1993?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V.CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Certain representations for lowering the import duty on aluminium have been received by the Government. These representations are under examination.

(c) The production of aluminium metal from January to June, 1993 is as under:—

| Year 1993 | Production (in tonnes) |
|-----------|---------------------------|
| January | 41,152 |
| February | 37,183 |
| March | 39,870 |
| April | 36,433 |
| May | 34,094 |
| June | 34,555 |

Monthly imports data (month to month basis) for aluminium is not maintained by the office of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade. Month-wise statistics of consumption of aluminium in the country is also not maintained. The consumption of aluminium metal from January to June, 1993 was about 1,95,000 tonnes.

Strike by Public Sector Undertakings Employees

1066. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU:
SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA:
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of various Public Sector Undertakings had gone on a nation-wide strike on July 14, 1994;

(b) if so, the major demands of these employees; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (c). The non-INTUC/BMS trade unions under the aegis of the Committee of Public Sector Trade Unions, organised a country-wide strike on July 14, 1994. The major demands mentioned in the strike notices received in this Ministry are as follows:-

1. Oppose the drive for Privatisation of Public Sector Units and disinvestment of public sector shares.
2. The Government of India must come forward to help the revival packages of the sick public sector units.
3. Oppose discriminatory role of the Government of India against the public sector units to bolster the private sector and multi-national