

Joint Ventures in South Africa

1089. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Indian companies have sought permission to set up joint ventures in South Africa ;

(b) if so, the details of the joint venture proposed to be set up by these companies, company-wise; and

(c) the time by which these proposals are likely to be decided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). All applications for setting up joint ventures/wholly owned subsidiaries abroad are to be made to and processed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Accounting to information furnished by the RBI, an application of M/s. United Breweries Ltd. to invest South African Rand 52.50 Million (US \$ 14.58 Million approximately) for acquiring of 30% share in an existing beer manufacturing company in South Africa has been received by them. As the proposal is complex, entailing huge requirement of funds of US 14.58 million, besides future obligation for US \$ 11.11 Million, the RBI have referred the case of Ministry of Finance for further consideration. It may not therefore, be possible to indicate any definite time limit.

Similar Sized Coins

1090. SHRI ANNA JOSHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether similar sized coins of different denominations are in circulation in the market;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to withdraw these coins;

(c) if so, when; and

(d) the loss likely to be suffered by the Government on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) Re. 1 CN and Rs. 2 CN coin sized 26 mm dia. are in circulation. The shape of the coins is however different. Re. 1 coin is round in shape whereas Rs. 2 coin is 11 sided.

(b) There is no move to withdraw these coins at present.

(c) and (d). Does not apply.

EPF Employees Under Fifth Pay Commission

1091. SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Employees of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation come under the purview of the Fifth Pay Commission;

(b) if not, the reasons therefore; and

(c) the machinery available for entertaining the grievances of the employees of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation in case these employees are not covered by the Fifth Pay Commission?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (c). The Fifth pay Commission has been constituted to look into the emoluments structure and other service conditions of the Central Government employees only. As such, the employees of the Employees Provident Fund Organisation which is an autonomous statutory body set up under the EPF & MP Act, 1952 do not fall within the purview of the Fifth Pay Commission. Under section 5D(7) (a) of the EPF & MP Act, the salary, allowances and other conditions of service of the EPF employees are required to be specified by the Central Board in accordance with the rules and orders applicable to the employees of the Central Government drawing corresponding scales of pay. Wherever necessary, the Central Board with prior approval of the Central Govt. is also competent to make departures in respect of these administrative matters.

Foreign Trips by CMs

1092. KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Chief Ministers State-wise/Union Territory-wise who went on foreign trips during the each of the last three years; and

(b) the expenditure incurred on each of such trip?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.