

From these reports it appeared that there was misapprehension in the Gulf countries regarding the taxability of their remittances in Non-Resident (External) Accounts to Wealth-tax, the Government immediately issued a Press release that monies to the credit in such accounts was exempt from Wealth-tax in India not only during the stay of the Account holder outside India but also for a period of seven successive Assessment Years on the return of an Indian citizen or a person of Indian origin, hitherto ordinarily residing in a foreign country, with the intention of permanently residing in India. The clarification issued by the Government was published on 20th February, 1985 in Hindustan Times, Indian Express, Times of India, financial Express, Economic Times, etc. The Government have also issued a Public Circular to this effect which would be binding on all Wealth-tax Officers in India. The clarification has also been forwarded to some Indian Embassies situate in the Middle East and all the 5 overseas offices of the Indian Investment Centre, i.e., at London, New York, Frankfurt, Tokyo and Abu Dhabi on 21st February, 1985. The office in Abu Dhabi as well as the Ambassador of India, Kuwait have been requested to give wide publicity to the factual legal position among the non-resident Indians bankers and others.

The steps are also being taken to send teams consisting of representatives from the Indian Investment Centre and Central Board of Direct Taxes to Gulf countries for addressing meetings of non-resident Indians with a view to remove misconceptions in their minds about Indian Tax Laws.

(c) The Government are hopeful that the clarifications issued and further steps being taken would dispel the misapprehensions in the minds of non-resident Indian investors.

High grade Coal being brunt at utits of CCL

235. SHRI THAPAN THOMAS : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether over 40 lakhs tonnes of high grade coal meant for bulk consumers and thermal power plants and the Railways is being brunt at the stock-yards of Dakra,

Dewarkhand, Bachra, Sirka, Reliagar and Rajrapna units of Central Coalfields Limited ;

(b) the total quantity of coal turned into ashes in these collieries ;

(c) the reasons for having such huge stock at the coalileds ; and

(d) the steps being taken to remove these stocks for the use of bulk consumers ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) and (b) Out of total coal stock of about 32 lakh tonnes at Religora, Karanpura Dewarkhand, Dakara, Bachra, Sirka and Rajrappa, only about 4 lakh tonnes is affected by spontaneous heating.

(c) Build up of stocks is due to production out-stripping despatches in power grade coal and delay in completion of construction of new washery in Rajrappa for coking coal.

(d) The following steps are being taken to bring down the stock holdings:

(i) Offers to the Railways for allotment of wagons have been increased to the maximum extent ;

(ii) Efforts are being made to maximise the despatches by road from the road linked collieries ;

(iii) Construction of washery by Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation is being expedited ; and

(iv) Central Coalfields Limited has pegged down production in CCL to 38.5 M. tonnes during 1985-86 to bring down stock holdings.

Effect on Coal India Limited's output due to wagon shortage.

236. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :