

**Levy of Excise Duty on Cigarettes**

8627. **SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI** : Will the Minister of **FINANCE** be Pleased to State :

(a) whether the Union Government can levy excise duty on the basis of retail price of cigarettes;

(b) if so, whether this matter has been legally examined at the highest level;

(c) if so, the legal advice in this regard; and

(d) if not, whether Government propose to seek advice to avoid possibility of litigation ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY)** : (a) Excise duty can be levied on cigarettes at specific rates, fixed with reference to the sale price printed on the cigarette packets.

(b) and (c). Government was advised that there would be no legal objection to the fixation of specific rates of excise duties depending upon the sale price, printed on the cigarette packets.

(d) Does not arise.

**Evasion of Import Duty by Taper Roller Bearing Dealers**

8628. **SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER** : Will the Minister of **FINANCE** be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has come to notice that Taper Roller bearings dealers have evaded import duty by bringing taper roller bearings in the form of component while the import of bearing itself is banned;

(b) if so, the amount of import duty evaded by these dealers; and

(c) the action taken to recover the amount ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI**

**JANARDHANA POOJARY)** : (a) to (c). A few consignments said to be "components of Taper Roller Bearings" but which prima-facie appeared to be complete taper roller bearings have been noticed at Calcutta. The cases are being investigated and suitable action under the law, including recovery of any duty short-levied, will be taken on completion of investigation.

**[Translation]****Development work Held up Due to In different Attitude of Officials of Banks**

8629. **SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY** : Will the Minister of **FINANCE** be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Kahan Mill Rahat Afsaron Ke Mare Berozgaron Ko' (no respite for the unemployed persons victimised by officers) appearing in "Patliputra Times" of 3 March, 1986;

(b) if so, whether development work in Sitamarhi and many other districts is held up due to indifferent attitude adopted by officers of nationalised banks in various districts in Bihar and whether Government have so far taken or propose to take any action in this regard; and

(c) whether Government propose to conduct high level inquiry into all the loan applications received from district industry centres ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY)** : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Government has seen the news-item appearing in 'Patliputra Times' on 3rd March, 1986 wherein it has been alleged that the development work in Sitamarhi District has been help up due to the indifferent attitude of State Government, District Administration and of the Nationalised Banks. The Lead Bank of the District, Central Bank of India, has reported that as against the target of 136 to be covered during the year 1985-86, the bank has sanctioned 124 cases involving an amount of Rs. 21.81