

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any precautionary measures in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) Yes, Sir. One of the major trading blocks viz. the European Union has imposed a ban on international sale of all meat products of British cattle.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. Import of tallow, fat/oils etc. of any animal origin are not permitted and have been classified as prohibited items in the Negative List of imports under the Export and Import Policy. In view of the incidence of *Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy* (BSE) in UK and other countries, government has taken further measures to restrict import of products/items so as to ensure that they originate only from healthy animals free from BSE.

Amendment in the Contempt of Court Act, 1971

4442. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 so as to allow criticism of judgements, judicial system and to make the system healthy and incorruptible;

(b) if so, the time by which such an amendment is expected to be introduced through a Bill in the Parliament; and

(c) if not, the other steps being taken to make the judicial system healthy and incorruptible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The existing laws are sufficient to make the judicial system healthy and incorruptible.

EURO/GDR issues

4443. SHRI RAM CHANDRA VEERAPPA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total receipts (in rupees as well as dollars) by Indian Companies from participation in Euro issues and GDRs flotation during the last three years;

(b) the average rate of interest attached to such issues;

(c) whether the realisation from Euro issues and GDRs are being increasingly used to retire domestic borrowing which bear a substantially higher rate of interest; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The amount raised by Indian Companies through Euro Issues Global Depositary Receipt (GDR) and Foreign Currency Convertible Bonds (FCCBs) in dollars and rupee equivalent, during the last three years have been as follows:

Years	Amount in US \$ million	Equivalent in Rs. crores
1993-94	2500.00 + S.Fr.20 million	7868.00
1994-95	1991.63	6248.16
1995-96	616.25	2156.88

(b) In terms of the Euro issue Guidelines dated 19.6.96, the all-in costs for FCCBs should be significantly better than the corresponding debt instruments (ECBs). Interest rates on US dollars denominated FCCBs issued by Indian Companies have ranged between 2.25% to 7.8%.

(c) and (d). As per the Government of India guidelines dated 19.6.96 for Euro issues, the companies can utilise upto 25% of the Euro issue proceeds for general corporate restructuring including working capital requirements, which also covers retirement of high cost domestic borrowings.

Public Interest Petitions

4444. DR. VALLABH BHAI KATHIRIA:
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA:
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the procedure for submitting a public interest petition and the basis on which it is admitted by the court;

(b) the number of public interest petitions received by various courts of the country during each of last three years; and

(c) the number of petitions admitted and judgements given by the courts on these petitions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Increase in Price of Tea

4445. SHRI S.P. JAISWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of tea have been increasing continuously;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to check the rising trend in prices of tea?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) While average auction prices of teas at Indian auctions have increased by 8.66% during January-July, 1996 as compared to the corresponding period of 1995, retail prices of consumer preference medium variety teas have not registered increase during the first 6/7 months of the current year.

(b) and (c). Marginal recovery in auction prices of tea during the current year as compared to depressed level of prices during 1994 and 1995 is on account of better demand. No special steps are envisaged to check the prices as increase in the prices is not very high. Tea Board, however, monitoring tea prices both at auction and retail level on a continuing basis.

[English]

Industrial Park in Assam

4446. SHRI KESHAV MAHANTA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up any industrial park in the States with particular reference to Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government of Assam has any share in that industrial park; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Upto now 18 Export Promotion Industrial Parks (EPIP) have been approved to be set up in Amingaon near Guwahati (Assam), Dhandari Kalan (Punjab), Ambarnath (Maharashtra), Kakkanad (Kerala), Baddi (H.P.), Sitapura (Rajasthan), Hoodi (Karnataka), Kundli (Haryana),

Surajpur (U.P.), Gammidipoondi (Tamil Nadu), Pashamylaram (Andhra Pradesh), Savli (Gujarat), Hazipur (Bihar), Durgapur (West Bengal), Byrnihat (Meghalaya), Siya (Madhya Pradesh), Bhubaneswar (Orissa) and Samba (J&K).

(c) and (d). As per the project proposal of the Government of Assam, the EPIP is to be financed as under:-

Govt. of India Grant	Rs. 10.00 crores
Government of Assam/ Assam Industrial Development Corporation.	Rs. 4.62 crores

Examination for Clerks in Banking Service

4447. DR. ARVIND SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether both the Banking Services Recruitment Boards of Delhi and Lucknow have fixed the same date of examination, i.e., December 16, 1996 for the posts of Clerks, etc.;

(b) whether the Government are aware that most of the candidates are going to appear in both examinations;

(c) if so, the jurisdiction for fixing the same date for the examination by both the Boards;

(d) whether the Government propose to change the date of one of the Boards to protect the interest of the candidates who desire to avail of the chances in both the Boards; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir. However, common date of examination is 15.12.1996 and not 16.12.1996.

(b) to (e). The Government had, in November, 1990, inter alia, advised the Banking Service Recruitment Boards (BSRBs) that as far as possible, the examinations by the BSRBs for various cadres may be conducted on common dates.

The Government have, however, decided to re-examine the matter. Pending re-examination, the BSRBs have been advised to hold the clerical examinations scheduled to be held on 15.12.1996 on different dates.

[Translation]

Hard Coke Oven and Plants

4448. PROF. RITA VERMA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state: