

Excise duty rates in general are not very high, more particularly in respect of essential goods. While raising the rates of central excise duty on revenue considerations, the revenue increase is sought to be obtained more from an enlarged production and tax base than merely from higher rates.

**Payment of Customs Duties on  
Exports by Ferro Alloys  
Corporation**

8437. SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Charge Chrome plant Randia, in the district of Balasore, Orissa of the Ferro Alloys Corporation India Limited is exporting its products;

(b) if so, the amount of Foreign Exchange earned by it during 1986-87;

(c) whether the Corporation has paid all customs duties;

(d) if not, the measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) and (b). M/s. Ferro Alloys Corporation are exporting charge chrome manufactured by them since October, 1983. During the year 1986-87, they earned foreign exchange amounting to Rs. 23.6 crores.

(c) and (d). Being a 100% Export Oriented Unit, they are exempted from payment of customs duties on the specified imported inputs required for their export production.

**Facilities to Scientists**

8438. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a need to give better facilities and to provide better service conditions to the scientists in order to attract

good talent for scientific research;

(b) if so, the steps taken and proposed to be taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken to make scientific pursuits an attractive profession?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir, a number of steps has been taken to elevate the status of Scientists and Technologists and to improve their working conditions with a view to attracting good talent for scientific research and making scientific pursuits an attractive profession. Some of these are:

The scheme of flexible complementing / merit promotion is being introduced in all the scientific departments/ organisations.

Programmes have been launched through which core group of scientists are created in the country with all the necessary modern facilities required for pursuing research in new and frontier areas of science.

Special schemes are being implemented to provide assistance to scientists for attending international conference besides enabling younger scientists to attend specialised training programmes outside India.

There is a provision for temporary placement of scientists and technologists under the scheme of Scientists' Pool.

New scientific departments/ organisations such as Departments of Biotechnology, Ocean Development, Environment, Non-Conventional Energy Sources, Centre for Development of Telematics have been set up and some of these are in high technology areas. These are

likely to provide better job opportunities for the scientists and technologists.

The financial allocation for science and technology activities have been increased substantially over successive Five Year Plans.

Delegation of enhanced administrative and financial powers have been made to scientific institutions to improve the organisational efficiency and working conditions of scientists.

A number of schemes have been initiated for recognising talented young scientists and providing them appropriate research facilities.

Fellowship and Associateship are being provided alongwith appropriate facilities.

Research in new and frontier areas of science is encouraged by larger funding and sophisticated instruments are being made available through the Regional Sophisticated Instrument Centres.

#### **Mal-Functioning of Integrated Tribal Development Agency in Andhra Pradesh**

8439. SHRI T. BALA GOUD: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations on the mal-functioning of Integrated Tribal Development Agency in certain districts of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether Integrated Tribal Development Agency officers are implementing policies to wean tribals away from non-productive activities in West Godavari region;

(c) if not, the reasons therefore; and

(d) whether Government propose to take any action to enthuse the State Government to rectify existing malaise in such districts?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) While no representation on mal-functioning of Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) in Andhra Pradesh, as such, has been received, there were some representations about liquor/arrack shops allegedly opened by ITDA in one district.

(b) The ITDAs are implementing poverty alleviation programmes with emphasis on beneficiary oriented schemes to economically assist tribal families through productive activities.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Government of India together with State Government review the working of ITDAs from time to time with a view to identifying problems and taking corrective action.

#### **Training to Officers of United India Assurance Co.**

8440. SHRI R.S. MANE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken/proposed to improve the functioning of nationalised insurance companies;

(b) whether any administrative or management training is imparted to officers of United India Assurance Company, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any time-bound programme for improvement of the functioning of the United India Assurance Company has been drawn, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Chairman of the company has fixed specific time for hearing the problems and complaints of the policy-holders and others concerned; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) The nationalised insurance companies have taken a number