

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) to (c) The coffee consumption which in 1980 was only 48,000 tonnes is presently estimated to be around 48,000 tonnes. The figures of the domestic consumption of coffee since 1984 have been as under :

1984	53544 tonnes
1985	54874 tonnes
1986	54379 tonnes
1987*	58000 tonnes

*(Provisional figures)

In the year 1987 domestic consumption of coffee has shown an upward trend. Coffee Board has been making efforts to popularise coffee in the non-traditional areas and increase its sale in traditional regions. Regular advertisements promotional sale of quality coffees and participation in exhibitions/fairs etc. are some of the techniques being followed for increasing internal consumption of coffee.

Safe Deposit Bank Lockers in Bangalore

5426. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) total number of safe deposit lockers in all the nationalised banks in Bangalore city ;

(b) whether preference is given to the employees of concerned banks over the general public for allotment of available lockers ;

(c) whether the banks have been insisting on fixed deposits of Rs. 20,000 and above to give a locker ;

(d) whether the nationalised banks propose to prepare a list of locker-seekers in each branch and allot the lockers on the basis of their transactions in the bank ; and

(e) whether Government propose to introduce small lockers in large numbers to help middle class people to keep their valuables in the lockers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The information is being collected and to the extent available will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) to (d) According to Reserve Bank of India instructions, banks are required to allot atleast 80 per cent of the lockers on first-cum-first served basis and the remaining 20 per cent on business considerations. Making of fixed deposits is not a prerequisite for allotment of lockers. However, banks can seek a deposit (but not as a condition for allotment) from the applicant who has been allotted a locker to cover the annual rent of the locker from the interest on the deposit. In the alternative, advance payment of locker rent for a period of 3 years may be collected from the locker holder.

(e) The installation of lockers in bank branches depends on several factors such as availability of space, security, cost-return factor, demand of lockers, etc. The banks are, however, endeavouring to meet the demand of lockers to the extent feasible.

Investment of Provident Fund in Indira Vikas Patras

5427. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the provident fund amounts can be invested in Indira Vikas Patras ;

(b) whether Indira Vikas Patras are not considered as negotiable securities ; and

(c) will Government consider treating it as negotiable securities guaranteed by Union Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c) Under the investment pattern prescribed with effect from 1.4.1986, provident funds can invest only in such securities as defined in section 2 of Public Debt Act, 1944.

Appointment of Agents by Karnataka for NRI Investments

5428. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased