

Economists Meetings with Finance Minister

4333. SHRI NARSING SURYAVANSI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he held a pre-budget meeting with economists on 20th January, 1989.

(b) if so, the suggestions made by the economists; and

(c) which of these suggestions are acceptable and which of them are not acceptable with reason therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. At the meeting held with the Economists on the 20th January, 1989 a number of suggestions were made. These, among others, included: control of Defence Expenditure, limiting the use of subsidies to deserving cases, reduction in general interest rates, improving agricultural productivity through greater investment in irrigation, control of prices, more expenditure on education, health and housing, encouraging export promotion by making our goods more competitive, formation of collective organisations of the less privileged, imposition of presumptive taxation, measures for promotion of employment opportunities, bringing about improvement of efficiency in the public enterprises and stepping up of investment to raise commodity production etc.

2. The suggestions made by the Economists, as indeed, from other associations and persons, are taken into account in the formulation of Government policy.

Bank Deposits and Investment in Bihar

4335. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of total bank deposits in Bihar invested for the development of the State and the benefit of farmers;

(b) whether nationalised banks have not made adequate capital investment in accordance with the national policy;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to take other effective steps for the balanced economic development of Bihar; and

(d) the guidelines proposed to be followed in future for balanced economic development of Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). As per information available from Reserve Bank of India, the percentage of outstanding credit (including agricultural credit) to bank deposits in the State of Bihar as at the end of September, 1988 was 38.97%. Further as at the end of December 1987, the public sector banks had invested a sum of Rs. 1122.76 crores ... various securities/shares/bonds/debentures of Government and quasi Government bodies in the State of Bihar.

(c) and (d). Reserve Bank of India has advised the banks for improving their credit deposit ratio in Bihar. In the field of rural lending RBI has advised the designated rural and semi-urban branches under service area approach to prepare a credit plan for each village after careful assessment of potential for various activities.

Non-Investment

4336. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether Non-resident Indians have expressed their desire to invest more and

more in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether Government propose to attract more NRI investment so that country's financial position be strengthened; is so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). It is difficult to determine the intention of a large number of people of Indian origin residing in foreign countries regarding investment of their money in India.

(c) and (d). There is no specific proposal presently under consideration. However, the existing schemes and regulations are kept under constant review and suitable changes are made, where ever necessary.

Supplementary Import Licences issued by CCI & E

4337. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the reply given on 24

February, 1989 to Unstarred Question No. 471 regarding supplementary import licences and state;

(a) the details and reasons, date-wise where Chief Controller of Imports & Exports (CCI & E) issued Supplementary import licences during April-January, 1988-89;

(b) the dates on which Supplementary Licensing Committee (SLC) Headquarters met in 1988-89; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) Particulars of the Supplementary Licences are given in the statement I below.

(b) the dates on which the meetings of Headquarters Supplementary Licensing Committee were held during 1988-89, are given in the statement II below.

(c) In these cases, issue of Supplementary Licences or amendments in the existing Supplementary Licences, were approved by the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, keeping in view the merits of the cases.