

(a) whether it is a fact that the Life Insurance Corporation of India is not settling the claims of various policy holders or their nominees on flimsy grounds;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to streamline the procedure for settling the claims quickly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) & (b) No, Sir. The LIC has been settling the claims of policy holders or their nominees as expeditiously as possible.

(c) The LIC has taken several steps to streamline the procedure for expeditious settlement of claims. The main steps taken are (i) issue of Discharge voucher (s) in advance, (ii) waiver of age proof upto certain sum assured, (iii) regular follow up both by post and in person for getting the necessary documents from the claimants; (iv) waiver of proof of title up a particular amount of claim in deserving cases and (v) delegation of power to the Branch Offices to settle maturity claims.

Funds of Nationalised Banks in Sick Industries Units

1674. SHRI MURLI DEORA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state ;

(a) the volume of the funds of nationalised banks lying locked up in sick industrial units—large and small.

(b) whether with the experience thus gained in financing Government propose to re-frame their credit policies governing credit to industrial units; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to recover the locked up amounts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) As at the end of June, 1984, the amount of credit from nationalised banks and State Bank of India and its Associates outstanding against large,

medium and small scale sick industrial units was Rs. 3143.86 crores.

(b) & (c) It is the function of the banks to recover the loans advanced by them to industrial units. In regard to sick industrial units, the banks are expected to determine the viability of the unit and nurse the viable units to health so as to, eventually, recover their dues. In the case of non-viable units, the banks may recall the advances and take recourse to legal measures for recovering their dues. There is no proposal under consideration of the Government, at present, to reframe the credit policies governing credit to industrial units.

New Market for Spices of Kerala

1675. SHRI V.S. VIJAYRAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any significant effort has been made to find new markets for the spices of Kerala like pepper, cardamom, cinnamon, etc;

(b) if so, whether the export of these spices has increased during the past one year and the details thereof;

(c) whether the trade delegations and missions play a useful role in boosting export; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) Efforts to find new markets for spices are made by sending delegations abroad, arranging contact promotion programmes, participating in fairs and exhibitions, receiving delegations from abroad, etc.

(b) The export of spices including Cardamom from India during 1984-85 is estimated to be worth Rs. 210 crores as against Rs. 116 crores in 1983-84.

(c) & (d) Trade delegations have been instrumental in development of export of Spices to the countries covered.