

Besides, the import of the above items is allowed to a limited extent against replenishment/advance/improvement licences for export production for which import figures are not available.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Steps Taken to State Work of Vijayanagar Steel Plant in Karnataka

1794. SHRI S. M. GURADDI :
SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA :

Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5158 on 3.5.1985 regarding Vijayanagar Steel Plant in Karnataka and state :

(a) whether any concrete steps have been taken to start the work of Vijayanagar Steel Plant ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI NATHWAR SINGH) : (a) to (c) The detailed project report for the first phase of the Vijayanagar Steel Plant has been received. The commencement of work on the project will depend upon the investment decision which has not yet been taken. However, certain preparatory/preliminary works such as land acquisitions, topographical survey, geophysical investigations, soil investigations etc. have been undertaken.

Irregularities in Nationalised Banks in Bangalore

1795. SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER :
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) how many attempts to commit burglary and actual burglaries took place since January, 1985 in nationalised banks in Bangalore city ;

(b) the amount involved in these burglaries ; and

(c) whether Government propose to instruct the nationalised banks to stop burglaries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) The Reserve Bank of India has reported that a theft involving Rs. 20,000/- was committed in the State Bank of Hyderabad branch in Bangalore city. One case of attempted burglary was also reported to the RBI by Punjab National Bank. Although there was no loss of cash in this case, one bicycle and one pocket calculator of the aggregate value of Rs. 725.50 were stolen.

(c) The Reserve Bank of India has reported that banks have been advised of various measures to strengthen their security arrangements. Provision of armed guards in banks is one of the measures. However, the security measures that have to be taken by the banks are decided by the banks on the basis of identified degree of vulnerability of each branch.

Anomaly in Provision of Central Sales Tax Act

1796. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER :
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that in levying Central Sales Tax, the postage is also taken into account ;

(b) whether affixing of postage stamps is considered as a sales by Government ; and

(c) the steps Government propose to remove this anomaly, if necessary, by amending the provision in Central Sales Tax ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c) Sales tax is mainly a State subject of taxation. The proceeds from Central sales tax levied

on inter-States sales of goods under the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956 have also been assigned to the States under Article 269 (1) (g) of the Constitution and the administration of the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956 has been entrusted by law to the States. The interpretation as to what constitutes "sale price" has therefore to be left to the decision of the authorities of state Government.

**Applications from Non-Resident Indians
Pending with R.B-I. for Purchase of
Shares in Indian Companies**

1797. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications from the Non-resident Indians pending with the Reserve Bank of India for purchase of shares of Indian companies ; and

(b) the action being taken to clear all the pending applications ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Strict Terms by World Bank for Financial Assistance

1799. SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the World Bank is imposing more hard terms on India for financial assistance ;

(b) the details of the terms and the event to which these are acceptable to India ;

(c) the extent to which these terms would adversely affect India's development ; and

(d) the steps being taken to avoid these terms and to get financial assistance from the World Bank on normal terms and conditions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) (a) No change in the terms of lending by World Bank has been made in the recent past except that the rate of interest has been reduced from 9.29% to 8.82% with effect from 1st July 1985.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Increase in Trade with African Countries

1800. SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been increase in Trade with African countries situated south of Sahara Desert, during the past two years ;

(b) if so, the items of commodities exported to those countries together with the names of the countries ;

(c) the value of the each type of commodity that was exported and foreign exchange earned ; and

(d) the steps being taken to face the competition from other foreign countries in the near future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) Following are the figures of India's trade with South Africa :

	(Rs. in crores)	
	Exports	Imports
1982-83	952.79	168.67
1983-84	186.44	313.56

(b) and (c) Statements showing commodity-wise export figures for countries in the region for the latest available year are laid on the Table of the House.

[Placed in the Library See. No. LT/1295/85]

(d) Several measures including credit facilities, improving infrastructural facili-