

दस हजार के विमुद्रीकृत नोट 16, 17 तथा 18 फरवरी को उन पड़ोसी देशों में बदले गये जहाँ भारतीय मुद्रा का बदलना सरल है; और

(ख) यदि हा, तो यह कैसे हुआ ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री जुल्फिकार उल्लाह) : (क) सरकार के पास ऐसी कोई सूचना नहीं है।

(ख) यह सवाल पैदा ही नहीं होता।

Appointment of auditors by Chairman, United Commercial Bank

2369. SHRI MADAN LAL SHUKLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that in 1973 the Chairman, United Commercial Bank has appointed, some auditors of the M/s. Price Water House and Company statutory auditors, in senior grade while they were carrying out audit in the Bank, on salaries much higher than they were drawing in the auditing firm; and

(b) if so, the reasons and names thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) and (b). United Commercial Bank has reported that Shri S. N. Ghosh who was working with M/s. Price Waterhouse Peat & Co., the statutory auditors of the Bank for the years 1970-1974, was appointed as a Senior Chartered Accountant in the Bank in September, 1973 on the basis of his application received in response to an advertisement by the Bank and the rank obtained by him in the interview for the post. Taking into account the experience and salary drawn by them with their previous employers, the first three selected candidates which included Shri S. N. Ghosh were offered by the Bank a higher starting salary.

Exemption of political parties from payment of taxes

2370. SHRI G. S. TOHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India decided to exempt political parties from wealth tax on income derived from investments and donations; and

(b) if so, what are the relevant details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ZULFIQUAR ULLAH): (a) and (b). Government propose to sponsor legislation with a view to providing—

(i) exemption from income-tax in respect of income derived by political parties from their investments (both in movable and immovable properties) and also income by way of donations received by them from non-members;

(ii) exemption from wealth-tax in respect of the value of assets held by them

The proposed exemption from income-tax will not be allowed unless the political party maintains proper books of account and gets its annual accounts audited by a chartered accountant or other qualified accountant. The exemption from income-tax and wealth-tax will be allowed only in the case of political parties which are registered with the Election Commission of India under the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968.

Facilities for tourists visiting Badrinath, Kedarnath and Uttarkashi

2372 SHRI JAGANNATH SHARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of Tourists visiting Badrinath, Kedarnath and Uttarkashi has increased considerably during past some years;