

Insurance Corporation of India has placed its nominees; and

(b) what is the criteria of placing L.I.C. nominees on the Boards of Private Sector Companies?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL) : (a) As on 12-12-78, the LIC has nominees on the Boards of Directors of 69 Private Sector Companies.

(b) The criteria broadly applied by the LIC for nominating directors on Boards of Private Sector Companies are as under:—

1. In the case of companies in which the LIC's equity holding is Rs. 50 lakhs or above, a nominee is appointed.

2. In the case of companies in which the LIC's equity holding is more than Rs. 25 lakhs but less than Rs. 50 lakhs, the question of appointing its nominees on the Boards of such companies is considered on merits.

3. In the case of companies in which the LIC's equity holding is less than Rs. 25 lakhs, LIC may consider having its representatives on their Boards if the financial position or the equity of management of the company is bad or the affairs of the company are not being managed in accordance with sound principles or commercial practices.

In addition when LIC gives institutional financial assistance by way of underwriting of share capital/ granting of term loans/subscribing to debentures in consortium with other financial institutions nominees are appointed on the Boards of such companies in consultation with the other financial institutions.

Financial interest of Firestone Rubber Co. U.S.A. in Synthetics and Chemicals Ltd.

3726. SHRI SURENDRA BIKRAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the interest of Firestone Tyre and Rubber Company, U.S.A. in Synthetics and Chemicals Ltd., including financial interest; and

(b) what is the total number of shares of Synthetics and Chemicals Ltd., in possession of Firestone Tyre & Rubber Co., U.S.A.?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL) : (a) and (b). The interest of Firestone Tyre and Rubber Co., U.S.A. in Synthetics and Chemicals Ltd. is 25 per cent of the latter's paid-up capital. The total number of shares of Synthetics and Chemicals Ltd. held by Firestone is 1,43,750 of Rs. 100/- each.

Alleged evasion of Central Sales Tax and Central Excise by M/s. Sew Narayan Khub Chand, Calcutta

3727. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY :

SHRI SHYAM SUNDAR GUPTA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the effect that M/s. Sew Narayan Khub Chand, Calcutta have been evading Central Sales Tax, Central Excise for quite sometime and thereby defrauding Government of huge revenue; and

(b) if so, whether Government of India have since raided their concerns and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL) : (a) and (b). M/s. Sew Narayan Khubchand is not a Central Excise licensee at present. The question of their evading Central Excise duty and defrauding Government of huge revenue in the recent past does not, therefore, arise. An old case of alleged evasion of excise duty

on special boiling point spirit amounting to about Rs. 25,000 is pending adjudication.

Regarding evasion of Central Sales Tax, it may be stated that the administration of Central Sales tax has been entrusted by law, to the Sales Tax authorities of the State Governments.

Renting of shop by Cottage Emporium, Delhi

3728. SHRI YADVENDRA DUTT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cottage Emporium in Delhi which had rented out the jewellery shop inside for a sum of Rs. 8 lakhs yearly has now cancelled that lease and has rented the same shop to a person only for Rs. 80,000 (eighty thousand); and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Persons who took oath to keep away from smuggling

3729. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of smugglers have taken oath to keep away from smuggling activity at the request of Loknayak Jaya Prakash Narayan;

(b) if so, how many of them have taken the oath and the list of persons thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the smuggling activity, directly or indirectly, by the agents or managers of the above persons have increased during the last 18 months and if so, how many arrests were made and whether any inquiry was done to trace their antecedents; and

(d) how many COFEPOSA warrants were cancelled during the period from April, 1977 to September, 1978 and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The names of 99 persons who were reported to have taken the pledge, are indicated in the Statement laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT—3076/78*]

(c) No direct involvement of any such person or their agents or managers, in smuggling activities, has come to the notice of Government, nor any arrests made, so far.

(d) During the period from April, 1977 to September, 1978, 402 orders for detention under the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974, were revoked on the opinion of the Advisory Board, or under the orders of the Courts of Law or as a result of review of the cases by the concerned detaining authorities.

ब्यापार गृहों के विरुद्ध जांच

3730. श्री हुकूम देव नारायण यादव : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि पिछली सरकार और वर्तमान सरकार के काल के दौरान वित्त मंत्रालय के घासूचना विभाग के द्वारा अब तक कितने ब्यापार गृहों के विरुद्ध जांच कराई गई है और उसने कितनी फर्मों पर छापा मारे हैं, कितनी फर्मों के विरुद्ध जांच प्रतिवेदन प्रस्तुत किया गया है, कौन कौन सी फर्मों के विरुद्ध कार्यवाही की गई है और कौन कौन सी फर्मों के विरुद्ध मामले विचाराधीन हैं ?