

receipts, etc., besides the four heads of receipts relevant to the term 'inward remittances namely (i) family maintenance, (ii) savings of non-residents, (iii) migrant transfer and (iv) money order receipts.

(c) Information in respect of countries and amounts of foreign exchange earned in each of the last two years separately by remittances by Indians settled abroad and that by export of goods is not available.

राष्ट्रीय कृषि बैंक स्थापित करना

692. श्री राघवजी : क्या उप प्रधान मंत्री तथा वित्त मंत्री यह बनाने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या गत 10 वर्षों में राष्ट्रीय सहकारी बैंक स्थापित करने के बारे में वित्त मंत्रालय में कि: सी प्रस्ताव पर विचार किया गया था ;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो तन्मन्वन्त्री ध्यौरा क्या है ; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो क्या मंत्रालय ऐसे किसी प्रस्ताव पर विचार करेगा ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीकृष्णका-कडस्माट) : (क) से (ग) : कृषि विषयक राष्ट्रीय प्रायोग ने अपनी रिपोर्ट (1976) में अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ सिफारिश की है कि कृषि वित्त पोषण के मसूचे टाचे और नीचे से लेकर शीर्ष संगठन के रूप में एक "भारतीय कृषि विकास बैंक" के गठन तक ग्रामीण विकास के एकीकरण की दिशा में कार्रवाई की जानी चाहिये। इन मामलों में अन्य समितियों के विचार भिन्न थे। इस विषय की जांच करने पर यह निर्णय किया गया कि यदि इस प्रकार के शीर्ष निकाय की स्थापना की जानी है तो उसे रिजर्व बैंक के मामान्य नियंत्रण में किया जाय और उसकी स्थापना का परिणाम यह नहीं होना चाहिये कि ऋण और मुद्रापूर्ति के विनियमन के सम्बन्ध में रिजर्व बैंक के काम में कमी आ जाय। यद्यपि इस प्रस्ताव पर आगे कार्रवाई न करने का निर्णय पहले किया गया था किन्तु संस्थागत व्यवस्थाओं को तर्कसंगत बनाने की दृष्टि से उनकी समीक्षा कराने के लिए रिजर्व बैंक से अनुरोध किया गया है।

Measures to Conserve Foreign Exchange

693. SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA : Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's reserve of foreign exchange is going down since last year;

(b) what are the reasons for this set-back; and

(c) what measures have been taken to conserve foreign exchange in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): (a) No, Sir. India's Foreign Exchange Reserves (excluding Gold and Special Drawing Rights) have recorded an increase of Rs. 892.06 crores during the calendar year 1978 and a further increase of Rs. 251.16 crores during the period 1st January, 1979 to 9th February, 1979.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Excise duty on Pulp Manufactured in the country

694. SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY : Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether rayon grade pulp is allowed to be imported free of duty while an excise duty is levied on pulp manufactured in the country; and

(b) whether Government have decided to follow a fiscal policy which taxes domestic production to the advantage of imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): (a) Rayon grade pulp imported into the country attracts the normal customs duty under Heading 47.01 of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975. However, such pulp is one of a number of items which can be imported free of duty for manufacture of goods for export.

Rayon grade pulp produced in the country attracts central excise duty under Item 68 of the Central Excise Tariff as an item "not elsewhere specified". The rate of duty applicable to this item is 5 per cent *ad valorem*. Goods falling under Tariff Item 68 are

completely exempt if they are manufactured in factories operating without the aid of power. Further, small scale industries manufacturing goods falling under this item and having capital investment less than Rs. 10 lakhs in a financial year and having value of clearances in the preceding financial year not exceeding Rs. 30 lakhs are entitled to an exemption of Rs. 30 lakhs in a financial year.

(b) No, Sir. Goods imported into the country, in addition to basic customs duty specified in the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975, also attract additional duty equivalent to central excise duty levied on like articles manufactured in India in terms of section 3(1) of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975. However, in situations where the total duty burden, on account of the basic and additional duties makes the cost of importation of any goods uneconomical thus preventing imports in desirable quantities, exemption from payment of full or part of the total import duty leviable on such article is considered by the Government.

Location of Godowns in which seized Articles are stored by Customs

695. SHRI PURNA NARAYAN SINHA: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to lay on the Table of the House a comprehensive list of articles which were seized by Indian Customs and are stored in the different godowns of the country with approximate Indian value of each kind of these smuggled articles;

(a) what decision has been taken by Government to dispose of these seized articles;

(b) what are the locations of the godowns in which these seized articles are being stored and what rent is paid out monthly for each of these godowns;

(c) is it a fact that there is a half-empty godown in Bombay rented at Rs. 47,200 per month with some confiscated stores/beggage/cargo/goods

worth less than Rs. 95 lakhs for several years now; and

(d) if so, for how many years such a rent is being paid for so much worth of confiscated articles and how long this will continue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): The required information about the seized smuggled goods is furnished in Statement I.

(a) The manner of disposal of different categories of confiscated goods ripe for disposal is indicated in Statement II.

(b) to (d). Most of the godowns in which seized and confiscated goods are stored are located in Customs Houses and Central Excise Collectorate and hence no rent is required to be paid in respect of such godowns. However, where there is acute shortage of accommodation, godowns have been hired for storage of seized and confiscated goods.

The godown to which part (c) of the question refers, is a godown, the second floor of which was hired by Bombay Customs from 6-5-1976, on a monthly rent of Rs. 15,600/- and the first floor at Rs. 31,600/- per month with effect from 1-9-1976. This godown is being utilised for storage and sale of confiscated baggage, confiscated air cargo, seized and confiscated trade goods, and confiscated post parcels. At present, 29,507 packages, valued at Rs. 6.48 crores, are stored in this godown. The figure of Rs. 95 lakhs referred to in the question refers apparently to the value of confiscated goods, lying in the godown, that had become ripe for disposal as on 30-9-1978 and not to the entire stocks held in this godown. The godown is not remaining half-empty, but is being fully utilised.

With the issue recently of instructions for disposal of heterogeneous consumer items by way of retail sale, the goods stored in this godown which have become ripe for disposal are expected to be disposed of soon.