

**Issue of New Currency Notes**

5426. SHRI KESHAVRAO DHONDGE: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state the total value of soiled notes submitted to various banks throughout the country during the last ten years and the time by which new notes will be issued in replacement thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ZULFIQUARULLAH): No record is kept by the banks of soiled notes received by them for exchange. When soiled notes are tendered for exchange by any person to a Bank, new notes, depending on availability, or unsoiled notes are given to him across the counter.

**Appeals to Collector of Central Excise West Bengal for De Novo Adjudication**

5427. SHRI MOHAN LAL PIPIL: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of appeals remanded to the Collector of Central Excise, West Bengal, Calcutta, by Central Board of Excise and Customs for *de novo* adjudication for the last financial year; and

(b) what are the reasons for the delay in adjudication of the cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): (a) Only one appeal filed jointly by three persons.

(b) The case could not be adjudicated by the Collector of Central Excise West Bengal Calcutta as certain facts had to be verified. The case is now fixed for personal hearing before the Collector on 4th April, 1979.

**Reaction of Government to news item "concern over stock Bank Productivity"**

5428. SHRI P. M. SAYEED:  
SHRI A. R. BADRINARAYAN:  
SHRI M. V. CHANDRA  
SHEKHARA MURTHY:

Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press report appearing in 'Economic Times' and as well as in 'Financial Express' dated 21st January, 1979 under the heading "Concern over slack bank productivity";

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government;

(c) whether Government have examined these press reports; and

(d) if so, what are the factors responsible for this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ZULFIQUARULLAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank made it clear at the beginning of his reported talk that the views expressed were personal. Government are in accord with the general conclusion that, in order to remain viable, it is imperative that the banking industry should reduce their cost of operations and that one significant way of doing this is by raising the level of productivity. The management and employees of all commercial banks should make greater and concerted effort in this direction.