

(b) and (c). A substantial part of the indirect tax revenue is raised through taxing luxury items. As such it would not be wholly correct to say that the entire burden of indirect taxation is borne by the masses. Further, in a developing country like India where the tax base for income-tax and other direct taxes is quite low, adequate resources for development purposes cannot be mobilised from this source alone. Hence, recourse has to be taken to indirect taxation. However, care is taken to ensure that the incidence on the masses is as low as possible.

Relief for Central Government Pensioners

2929. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently Central Government have specified the entitlement to relief for various categories of Central Government pensioners; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the decision of Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) and (b). The relief for Central Government pensioners is regulated in accordance with the recommendations of the Third Pay Commission. Accordingly, one instalment of relief amounting to 5 per cent of pension (subject to a minimum of Rs. 5 and a maximum of Rs. 25) is given for every 16 points rise in the 12-monthly average of the All India Working Class Consumer Price Index. The last instalment of relief was released when the 12-monthly average index reached 344 points as on 1-11-1979.

The Government have recently through the budget, extended the benefit of standard deduction to pensioners.

Introduction of Computerisation in Income Tax Department

2930. SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are going to set up again a SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT TEAM in the Directorate of O&M Services (Income-tax) to introduce computerisation in the Income-tax Department;

(b) if so, whether the employees' Unions/Federations have been consulted and their reaction to the introduction of Computerisation again in the Income-tax Department; and

(c) the number of employees likely to be retrenched, cadre-wise, in each Charge of the Income-tax Department?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) Government have not yet decided to set up again a SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT TEAM to introduce computerisation in the Income-tax Department.

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

Smuggling of Narcotics

2931. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US Government has sought the co-operation of Indian Government to control smuggling of narcotics into that country; and

(b) if so, the result thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) and (b). Government have not received any such specific request from the Government of the United States of America.