

Towards the middle of this month reports were received about shortage of currency notes only in the Imphal branch of the State Bank of India and not in any other branch of SBI, in Manipur. The shortage was reported to have occurred because of difficulties in the escort and delivery of currency note consignments on account of disturbed situation in the Eastern States. After the receipt of the reports, currency consignments were rushed to Imphal branch of the SBI. According to the latest information received from the SBI the banking system is functioning normally and there is no apprehension of any bank closing down for want of cash.

#### Production of Thums Up & Non-payment of Excise Duty

2196. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of "Thums Up" drink produced by Parle Breweries, Bombay, the manufacturers of "Thums Up" in 1979-80;

(b) whether the manufacturers of "Thums Up" have not paid excise duty on the Thums Up drink produced in 1979-80;

(c) if so, the total amount of excise duty paid in 1979-80;

(d) if not, the main reasons therefor; and

(e) whether any action has ever been taken by Government against them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) to (e). The information is being collected and a statement to this effect will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### West Bengal Unemployment Allowance Scheme

2197. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:  
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:  
SHRI CHITTA BASU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the West Bengal Government has proposed to the Central Government to pay 50 per cent of total amount of the unemployment allowance given to the unemployed persons in West Bengal; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Government was informed that, according to the Central Government, the endeavour of the State should be to use scarce financial resources for creation of additional gainful employment opportunities and not to give cash doles. It is however open to the State Government to formulate schemes for relief of unemployment within their own resources.

#### Payment to unemployed persons

2198. SHRI A. K. BALAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state whether Government propose to subsidise the States which have implemented the scheme of making payment to the unemployed persons?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): The Central Government is alive to the need for generation of opportunities for additional gainful employment. Apart from providing for on-going projects, the Central Budget for 1980-81 makes a provision of Rs. 340 crores for the new National Rural Employment

Programme which is likely to generate 800 to 900 Million man days of additional employment. The Central Government is of the view that it should be the endeavour of the State to provide employment to the unemployed. Government feel that, having regard to all the relevant factors, the available resources can better be utilised on schemes which generate employment on a continuing basis. It is however, open to the States to formulate unemployment relief schemes within their own resources.

#### Multinational Companies dealing in marine Products

2199. SHRI D. P. JADEJA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of multi-national companies which are dealing in marine products:

(b) whether any multi-national company has applied for expansion of their marine trade; and

(c) if so, the names of these companies and the decision taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) The names of multi-national companies\* which are dealing in marine products are as follows:

- (a) Britannia Seafoods
- (b) Inditobacco Co. (India Tobacco Co.)
- (c) Brooke Bond India Ltd.
- (d) Union Carbide.
- (e) Hindustan Lever Ltd.
- (f) Wimco Ltd.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

#### Abolition of excise duty on Small Sector

2200. SHRI C. CHINNASAMY: Will the Minister on FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any requisition from the Federation of the Association of Small Industries of India (FASII) to abolish excise duty on small sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Federation of Associations of Small Industries of India had in their pre-Budget memorandum, inter alia sought abolition of excise duty for small units or, in the alternative, a preferential rate of duty for small units to enable them to compete with large units. In regard to goods falling under Item No. 68 of the Central Excise Tariff, the Federation suggested complete exemption for clearances upto Rs. 30 lakhs in a year and a graded rate structure for clearances between Rs. 30 lakhs and Rs. 90 lakhs. As regards the general exemption scheme for small manufacturers of specified items (now 72 in number) the Federation suggested total exemption for clearances upto Rs. 15 lakhs with a graded rate structure for clearances upto Rs. 45 lakhs in a year.

In the 1980 Budget, it has been proposed to raise the duty exemption limit for goods falling under Item No. 68 of the Central Excise Tariff manufactured by small units from Rs. 15 lakhs to Rs. 30 lakhs in a year. Another important concession proposed in this Budget is 25 per cent duty relief for small manufacturers manufacturing goods falling within 72 specified items, in respect of their clearances between Rs 5 lakhs and Rs. 15 lakhs as against the normal duty rate. These concessions have substantially expanded the cope of the

\*Any company having a non-resident equity participation of more than 40 per cent is treated as a multi-national company here.