

(c) how can there be Hony. Members in Agents' professional Clubs which are based on business promotion and the reasons why are they allowed life-time privileges, like Office allowance, telephone etc. ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In terms of a decision taken by the LIC Board in 1977, the Chairman, LIC, has been given the discretion to appoint an agent as an honorary member of the Chairman's Club. The decision does not apply to other clubs. The honorary membership of the Chairman's Club is granted on the basis of outstanding contribution by the agent to the industry during a minimum period of 20 years' service as an agent. The honorary member is not entitled to all the privileges available to other members of the Chairman's Club. He is also not entitled to fringe benefits such as office allowance and telephone.

In Depth Study of Working Mica Industry

4371. SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had constituted a Mica Enquiry Committee more than one year back, for in depth study of the working in the Mica Industry and to make recommendations for future development of Industry;

(b) whether the Committee has completed its enquiry and made its recommendations; if so, what are the salient features of the recommendations of the committee; and

(c) whether a copy of the Enquiry Report will be laid on the table of the House for the perusal of members?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. Swaminathan Committee made recommendations on export policy, functioning of MITCO, licencing system, setting up of mica industries, research and development mining and labour involved in mica industry.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Deduction of Post-Manufacturing Expenses from cost of Manufacture

4372. SHRI R. MUTHUKUMARAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state ;

(a) whether the post-manufacturing expenses are deducted from the cost of manufacture for arriving at the assessable value of manufactured goods under new Section 4 of the Central Excise & Salt Act, 1944 which came into force on 1-10-1975 and whether there is any Government Appeal pending in the Supreme Court in this matter and the position thereof;

(b) whether ITC is the only company who has filed similar Writ Petitions in various High Courts for claiming deduction of Post-Manufacturing Expenses;

(c) if not, the details of other cigarette and other products manufacturing companies which have adopted the same course of action; and

(d) the total number of valuation cases pending in various Courts involving claims for deduction of

Post-Manufacturing Expenses for arriving at the assessable value under New Section 4 and the total amount involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA) :
(a) In the light of Supreme Court judgement in the cases of M/s Voltas and M/s Atic Industries and judgements of many High Courts in the country, a number of Central Excise assesseees are paying duty on the assessable value after exclusion of so-called post - manufacturing expenses. Government has appealed against the decisions of the High Courts by filing Special Leave Petitions and Government's appeals in this regard are awaiting hearing in the Supreme Court.

(b) Apart from I.T.C. various other companies had filed similar writ petitions in different High Courts claiming deduction of post-manufacturing expenses.

(c) Details of other cigarette and other products manufacturing companies are being ascertained and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(d) The total number of valuation cases pending in various Courts in regard to deduction of post-manufacturing expenses from assessable value and the total amount involved is being ascertained and will also be laid on the Table of the House.

Alleged Concealment of Real Income by Film Personalities

4373. SHRI S. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) is it a fact that crores of rupees are due from some top film-personalities in the country towards income-tax ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government for the recovery ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA) :
(a) The department collects periodically information about film artists, film producers and film distributors against whom income-tax demands exceeding Rs. 1 lakh are outstanding. On the basis of such information, which is presently available as on 31-12-81, it is seen that there is no case of any film artist/producer/distributor against whom the outstanding income-tax demand was Rs. 1 crore or more.
(b) Does not arise.

Decline in Export Earnings of Defence Production

4374. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that there has been a sharp decline in the export earnings of the Department of Defence Production ; and

(b) if so, what were the export earnings in 1979-80, 1980-81 and 1981-82 respectively ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) :
(a) and (b). The following are the figures of value of exports of the Department of Defence Production including its Public Sector Undertakings for the last 4 years :—

1979-80	Rs. 40.40 crores
1980-81	Rs. 14.68 crores
1981-82	Rs. 28.73 crores (Prov.)

The drop in the value of exports during 1980-81 is largely attributable to the completion of the export orders for ships by Mazagon