

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). According to Canara Bank their branch at R. K. Puram is catering to a mixed clientele comprising of office-goers as well as commercial establishments. The bank, has, therefore, fixed the working hours from 9.00 A.M. to 1.00 P.M. to suit majority of their customers. The branch also remains open on Sunday, essentially for the benefit of the office-goers, etc., who may otherwise find it difficult to deal with the bank on week-days.

Working of Swadeshi Group of Mills

3170. SHRI R. N. RAKESH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the working results of the Swadeshi Group of Mills since take-over in 1978 under the I.D.R. Act;

(b) the steps being taken to ensure continuing production and productivity increase; and

(c) whether NTC is following a modernisation scheme and if so, the investments so far made and proposed to be made in the interest of large work force and the economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) The working results of the Swadeshi Group of Mills since take-over are as follows:-

Year	Working results (Provisional)
	(Rs. in lakhs)
1978-79	200.00 Profit
1979-80	61.48 "
1980-81	68.51 "
1981-82	777.58 Loss

(b) To ensure continued production and productivity, steps have been taken for timely procurement of materials and es-

sential stores for proper maintenance of plant and equipment.

(c) No investment has been made on modernisation of these mills so far. Investment on modernisation of the mills could be considered only after their future has been decided.

Disputed excise duty of cigarette companies

3171. SHRI R. MUTHUKUMARAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the entire cigarette industry has gone to court to determine the method of arriving at the assessable value u/s 4 and if so, the names of the companies who have gone to the court; and

(b) since how long has Sec. 4 of the Central Excise Act valuation matter been in court and what are the accumulated excise duty amounts which are at dispute in respect of each of the companies involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PATTABHI RAMA RAO): (a) The following cigarette companies have gone to Court:-

1. I.T.C. Limited.
2. Golden Tobacco Company.
3. Goodfrey Philips (I) Ltd.
4. Asia Tobacco Company.
5. J & K Cigarettes Ltd.
6. Vazir Sultan Tobacco Co. Ltd.
7. Nav Bharat Tobacco Company.
8. National Tobacco Co. Ltd.
9. Universal Tobacco Co. Ltd.
10. Duncan Agro-Industries Ltd.

(b) The present section 4 of the Central Excise & Salt Act, 1944 came into force with effect from 1.10.1975 and since then the cigarette manufacturing companies have gone to Courts from time to time in valuation matters.

The accumulated excise duty amounts which are in dispute in respect of each of the companies are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.