

Foreign Exchange Reserves and rate of Tax Collection

3342, SHR AJIT BAG: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foreign exchange reserve and the rate of tax collection are keeping pace with the budget estimates;

(b) if so, the details of the two items with specific figures; and

(c) if not, the reasons for failures with Government's efforts to meet the decline?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). Budget estimates do not contain any quantification of movements in foreign exchange reserves. However, foreign exchange reserves on February 28, 1983 amounted to Rs. 4166 crores compared with Rs. 3354 crores on March 31, 1982. Excluding IMF transactions, the reserves would have declined by Rs. 1082 crores in the current year upto February 28th as compared with a decline of about Rs. 2257 crores on a comparable basis for the same period in 1981-82. The Centre's net tax income after paying States' share of taxes is estimated at Rs. 13271 crores as against the Budget estimate of 13363 crores. Details are given in the Budget documents presented to Parliament and in the Economic Survey 1982-83.

Incentives to Staff Putting up Resistance in Bank Robbery Cases

3343, SHRI DEEN BANDHU VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Finance is considering a proposal to give incentives to those members of the Staff who put up resistance in cases of bank robberies or hold-ups;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what steps are being taken to strengthen the security system in the nationalised banks?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) and (b) The matter is under consideration.

(c) The State Governments, who are primarily responsible for the maintenance of law and order, have been requested to take suitable preventive measures. Government have also issued instructions to all public sector banks to tighten security measure within their premises. Detailed instructions have also been issued by the Government to public sector banks regarding the specific additional security measures that should be taken by them. Government have also set up a High Powered Committee to review the security arrangements in banks and make suitable recommendations.

Subsidy in Sugar Exports

3344, SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government will have to allow huge amount of subsidy on sugar exports during the current year; and

(b) if so, the total quantity proposed to be exported and the expected export price and indigenous price per quintal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) and (b) India has been allocated a quota of about 6.50 lakh tonnes of Sugar Organisation. The actual quantity to be exported would depend upon international prices.