

Foreign exchange reserves

4459. SHRI D. S. A. SIVAPRAKASHAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the foreign exchange reserve as on 1st January, 1983 and what it was on 1st January, 1982; and

(b) if it is higher than previous year, what contributed it; if less, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Foreign Exchange reserves (excluding Gold and SDRs) on 1st January, 1983 amounted to Rs. 3436 crores compared with Rs. 3444 crores on 1st January, 1982. Excluding IMF transactions, the reserves would have declined by Rs. 1565 crores during the period 1st January, 1982 to 1st January 1983. The adverse foreign exchange situation is due to large external trade deficit resulting from a sharp rise in the prices of essential imports, especially of POL which occurred in 1979 and 1980, while the prices of some major items of India's export interest have declined significantly. The growth in India's exports has also been constrained by the continuing recession and protectionist trading environments in the developed countries.

Production of bagasse-based viscose rayon

4460. SHRI ERA ANBARASU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether experimental production of bagasse-based viscose rayon for commercial use has started in West Germany, Brazil and Philippines; and

(b) whether Tamil Nadu Chemical Manufacturers' Association has de-

manded setting up of such units in the States having sugar factories and if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE SHRI MATI RAM DULARI SINHA: (a) Government has no information.

(b) No such proposal has been received from Tamil Nadu—Chemical Manufacturers Association.

Deposits under Public Deposit Schemes of Government Companies

4461. SHRI CHANDRA PAL SHALANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) what was the quantum of deposits under Public Deposits Schemes of various Government companies under the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) as on 31-12-1982 giving the details of each Company separately;

(b) as on 31-12-1982, how many depositors were under the category of "employees, ex-employees, widows of deceased employees of the Company and its subsidiaries, recognised charitable trusts and on Regimental fund or non-public fund established by the Armed forces of the Union for the welfare of the past and present members of such forces of their dependents" who were allowed an additional interest of 0.5 per cent and whose amount of deposit was Rs. one lakh or more?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PATABHI RAMA RAO): (a) A statement based on the available information is given in the attached statement.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

S. No.	Name of the Public Enterprises	Collection (Progressive)	
		Amount	Upto
1.	Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.	5910.35	31-12-82