

- (iv) Reduction in import duty on tea bagging machine from 75% to 30%.
- (v) Allowing cash compensatory support on export of packeted teas, tea bags and instant tea.
- (vi) Enhancement of an all industry rate of drawback on import duty and excise duty on imported material for tea bag exports from Rs. 85/- per kg. to Rs. 90/- per Kg. on tare weight of bag with effect from 1.6.1982.
- (vii) Introduction of REP for Registered Exporters of instant tea and packet tea.
- (viii) Full excise duty relief on exports from gardens and otherwise with effect from 23rd July, 1983.

#### **RBI Guidelines for release of foreign exchange**

5316. SHRI BHEEKHABHAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state ;

(a) whether any norms or guidelines have been laid down for the guidance of the Reserve Bank of India in the matter of release of foreign exchange to businessmen/ Company Directors/government servants/ other people going to U.S.A. for medical treatment, surgery, heart and other diseases for themselves, their family members accompanying them and personal staff in case of businessmen/Company Directors;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the particulars of persons who were released foreign exchange during the period from 1 January, 1983 to 31 July, 1983 for medical treatment including surgery by the Reserve Bank of India, Delhi for themselves, their families and personal staff accompanying them and the amount of Exchange released in each case ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. All applications for the release of foreign exchange for medical treatment abroad are examined in the Reserve Bank of India in accordance with the prescribed guidelines on this subject. Persons who wish to proceed abroad for medical treatment or for reasons of health are required to apply to the Reserve Bank of India in the prescribed Form. Such applications are to be accompanied by a certificate in the prescribed Form from the treating physician or surgeon or the presidency surgeon of the area in which the applicant resides. This certificate is also required to be endorsed by the Chief Administrative Medical Officer of the State concerned in the prescribed manner. Recently, Government have agreed to the waiver of recommendation from State Chief Administrative Medical Officer in those cases where the medical treatment abroad is recommended by the Directors of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, Post-graduate Institute, Chandigarh and Tata Memorial Hospital, Bombay.

Normally, where the estimates of expenditure of medical treatment are not indicated by the applicant, a maximum of US. 5,000/- is initially released by the RBI. In cases, however, where the estimates are produced either from the overseas hospitals or from the three recognised medical institutes mentioned above or from the Chief Administrative Medical Officers of the State concerned, foreign exchange is released as per the estimates produced without any ceiling, subject, of-course, to the rendering of accounts in due course to the RBI.

For maintenance expenses for any part of the stay, abroad, other than the hospitalised stay required for treatment/convalence/check-up, exchange is also released, if the stay is recommended by the prescribed medical officer the attending physician/surgeon abroad.

Attendant, where recommended, is also allowed. To the attendant(s), exchange is released @ US\$ 1,200/- per month per person upto 2 months.

In emergency cases, however, where any delay is liable to endanger the life of the patient, officers in charge in the RBI at their discretion are allowed to release exchange even without production of the certificate from the prescribed medical officer.

For medical check-up in the course of other business etc. visits abroad, exchange is released upto US\$ 300/- where there is hospitalisation and upto US\$ 150/- where there is no hospitalisation.

(c) The necessary information is being collected from the Reserve Bank of India, New Delhi, and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Transfer of Customs Officers

5317. SHRI BHEEKHABHAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether stay of an Inspector, Air Customs Pool, Superintendent Customs, Assistant Collector, Deputy Collector and Additional Collector, Central Excise and Customs at one place has been prescribed; if so, for what period;

(b) whether the Inspectors in Air Customs Pool are liable to be transferred from one place to another;

(c) the number of persons category-wise who have stayed in Delhi for the last more than 3 years;

(d) which of the officers in the above categories have stayed at Palam Airport for more than 3 years; and

(e) which of them have worked at Palam Airport for more than 5 years inclusive of service as Assistant Collector and Deputy Collector and the reasons for their long stay at such a sensitive station ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PATTABHI RAMA RAO): (a) A period of three years is treated as the normal tenure for an airpool posting at Delhi, which

could be varied in special circumstances when administrative considerations so warrant.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) to (e) The information will be collected and laid on the Table of the House.

#### Number of scheduled castes/scheduled Tribes Employees in the Ministry and public sector undertakings.

5318. SHRI BHEEKHABHAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes Employees in his Ministry and all public sector undertakings category-wise and undertakings-wise;

(b) the reasons for shortfall and backlog in each assigning reasons in each case; and

(c) the steps taken by his Ministry to fill up vacancies in Trade Fair Authority of India and the like ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Black-Listing Non-nationalised Banks

5319. SHRI BHEEKHABHAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any power to stop the ill practices of non-nationalised banks particular that of Laxmi Commercial Bank; and

(b) whether Government have any power to black listing fake financial institutions ?