

5.3.93, has asked the importers to pay duty of Rs. 3.37 crores and redemption fine of Rs. 3.80 crores. He has also imposed personal penalty on the concerned firms and also on the Directors of both firms.

Presently, all the machines, including those assembled from the use of spares, are lying at Gummidipondi (TN), Madak (AP), Bagru, Bikaner & Malpura (Rajasthan), Bulandshahar, Chamoli, Jhansi & Bareilly (UP). These machines are not in use.

Judicial and Administrative System

318. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY .

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to improve the judicial and administrative system of the country,

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D KHALAP) : (a) to (c). The improvement of the Judicial and administrative systems in the Courts is a continuous process. To make an in-depth study of the problem of arrears and for improving Judicial and administrative system in Courts a committee of three Chief Justices of High Courts (Justice Malimath Committee) was constituted by the Government in 1989. The Committee has made several recommendation on various aspects covering jurisdictional and procedural modifications, the improvements in the judiciary, the setting up of specialised bodies such as tribunals/commissions to deal with specific types of cases, the fixation of Judges strength and appointment of Judges in High Courts, the creation of more posts in the subordinate judiciary and a number of other general recommendations relating to modernisation of office equipment in courts and allocation of more funds to the judiciary. These recommendations were forwarded inter-alia to all the concerned State Governments and the High Courts for necessary follow-up action.

Further, the problem of arrears of cases in Courts and their expeditious disposal was also considered in a meeting of the Chief Ministers and Chief Justices held on 4th December, 1993 under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister. The Conference recommended several steps in a resolution it adopted for the speedy disposal of cases in the Courts/Tribunals. This

resolution has been commended to all the State Governments/UT Administrations and High Courts/Tribunals for necessary action. The implementation of December, 1993 resolution and the recommendations made by the Working Groups were reviewed by the Law Ministers at their plenary meeting held in Calcutta in November, 1995. The resolutions adopted in these meeting have also been commended to all the concerned authorities for necessary follow-up action.

[English]

Domestic Entrepreneurship

319 SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are making efforts to support and promote domestic entrepreneurship;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent of success achieved therefrom so far?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) Various measures have been taken to promote domestic entrepreneurship. Some of the measures taken by the Government, inter-alia, include reduction in excise duties, levy of countervailing duty wherever required, reduction in corporate tax, etc. So far, 25781 number of investment proposals in the delicensed sector, with proposed investment of Rs 504,782/-crores during the period 1.8.1991 to 31.5.96, have been filed.

Rural Credit System

320 DR ARUN KUMAR SARMA Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to improve the rural credit system through Regional Rural Banks throughout the country; and

(b) if so, the concrete steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM) (a) and (b) Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) are an important component of the rural credit delivery system. The following steps have, therefore, been taken to strengthen and streamline the functioning of the RRBs

(i) With a view to widening the range and scope of their services, the RRBs have been allowed, with effect from 1.1.1994, to finance non-target groups to the extent of 60% of their fresh lending. More discretionary powers have been given to them for purchase/discounting of cheques/

demand drafts. Further, for widening their range of services, RRBs have been interalia allowed to issue guarantees on behalf of their customers, install lockers, issue drafts and effect mail transfers

- (ii) Seventy RRBs with disbursements of less than Rs. 2 crores during 1992-93 have been relieved from the service area obligations and have been allowed to extend loans throughout the area within their jurisdiction.
- (iii) RRBs have, subject to certain conditions, been allowed to relocate their loss-making branches to relatively better locations viz. commercial centres like market areas, village mandis, block and district headquarters etc. and to re-deploy concerned staff suitably.
- (iv) Equity support from Government of India to the extent of Rs 374 crores (approximately) has been provided to 102 RRBs and a budget provision of Rs 200 crores has been made in 1996-97 for this purpose
- (v) All RRBs have been advised to prepare bank specific development action plans to enable them to adopt a systematic approach for their turnaround
- (vi) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has provided the RRBs access to profitable avenues for investment of their non-SLR surplus funds in listed and other schemes of Unit Trust of India (UTI), fixed deposits in profit making financial institutions like the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), Industrial Credit Investment Corporation of India (ICICI), Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI), Small Industrial Development Bank of India (SIDBI), in bonds of nationalised banks and profit earning public sector institutions and in non-convertible debentures of reputed blue chip companies. Besides, the RRBs have been permitted by the RBI to deploy

a part of their surplus non-SLR funds in the credit portfolio of their sponsor banks through non-risk sharing participation certificates to be issue by the latter.

- (vii) Prudential accounting norms of income recognition and asset classification have been applied to RRBs in 1995-96. Provisioning norms would be applied in a phased manner from 1996-97 onwards.

[Translation]

Price Index

321 SHRI NITISH KUMAR ;
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA .
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :

Will the Minister, of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the inflation rate has been under control in the country during the last few months;

(b) whether the wholesale price index, consumer price index and agricultural labourer price index substantially differ in the country; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the details of commodities taken into account for ascertaining the price index?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes Sir

(b) Yes, Sir

(c) The difference in the three series of index numbers is largely due to the composition of their basket of commodities and their relative importance. The WPI reflects weekly movement of wholesale prices of 447 commodities of all traded goods. The CPI (IW) reflects monthly movement in retail prices of 260 commodities and services whereas the CPI (AL) with old base of 1960-61 covers retail prices of only 60 commodities. Commodity composition of each of the three index numbers is enclosed in the statement

STATEMENT

Commodity Groups under various Price Index Series

WPI	CPI	
	IW General	AL General
1	2	3
i Primary articles	i Food	i Food
(a) Food articles	ii Pan, supari, tobacco and intoxicants	ii Fuel and light
(b) Non-food articles		
(c) Minerals		