

Ministry of Commerce have been receiving requests from various State Governments including Government of Karnataka for setting up Free Trade Zones in those States. Government of India have decided at present to set up 4 additional Free Trade Zones at Cochin, Madras, NOIDA and Falta (West Bengal) and necessary measures have been initiated for bringing about their early establishment. Government would, however, watch their performance after commissioning before thinking of a few new ones. When the question to set up additional Free Trade Zones is taken up in future, the request of Government of Karnataka will be kept in view.

#### Decline in Dutch Imports from India

3737. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Dutch imports from India are declining ; and

(b) the factors responsible and the steps proposed to be taken to resolve the problem ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Rules Regarding Reservation of Posts for SC/ST not Being Followed by Bengal Circle of SBI

3738. SHRI A.C. DAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether rules regarding reservation of posts of SC/ST in recruitment as well as in departmental promotions, carrying forward of reserved vacancies, maintenance of 40-Point rests and recruitment of sub-ordinate staff (Class-IV) are not being followed by the Bengal Circle of State Bank of India ;

(b) If so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether Government have received representation from All India Scheduled Castes Federation recognised by Government of India to this effect ; and

(d) the action taken by Government thereon ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and to the extent available will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### External Debts

3739. SHRI SURAJ BHAN : SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total external debts as on March 31, 1980 and also on March 31, 1984 ;

(b) the total amount of the foreign commercial loans by public and private sector companies on these dates ;

(c) the value of the U.S. Dollar to rupee on January 10, 1980 and March 31, 1984 and how much the total rupee payment liability rose further due to fall in rupee value ;

(d) position of repayment schedule ; and

(e) estimated amount required per year for servicing the total foreign loans ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) The total External Debt on Government Account as on 31st March, 1980 and 31st March, 1984 was about Rs. 12, 178 crores and Rs. 20,165 crores respectively.

(b) The outstanding amounts of foreign commercial loans as on 31st March, 1980 and 31st March, 1984 were about Rs. 996 crores and Rs. 2,277 crores respectively.

(c) The U.S. Dollar was equivalent to Rs. 7.94 and Rs. 10.75 as on 10th January, 1980 and 31st March, 1984 respectively. Changes in the exchange rates between the Dollar and the rupee do not affect the foreign currency amount of repayment of debt denominated in Dollar since the debt is repaid in dollar. Moreover, the entire external debt is not repayable in US Dollar but in a mix of currencies.

(d) and (e) As per Budgetted estimates the amount of repayment of principal and payment of interest on Government loans during 1984-85 are estimated at Rs. 591.45 crores and Rs. 418.08 crores respectively.

#### Benefits to Coffee Growers

3740. SHRI D.M. PUTTE GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the benefits given by Government to coffee growers for the worst affected drought situation during 1983-84 which has resulted in poor coffee products ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) : The quantum of loan available under the Coffee Board's crop Hypothecation Scheme was revised both by upward revision in valuation norms as well as in absolute terms. As a result, disbursement increased from Rs 203 lakh in 1982-83 to Rs. 588 lakh in 1983-84. As a special relaxation, the repayment was allowed to be made in three annual instalments.

#### Non-Resident Indians Investment and Foreign Capital Investment

3741. SHRI P.K. KODIYAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether both the Centre and some States are vying with each other to attract the Non-Residents Indians Investment (NRI) in the country :

(b) if so, details of such investments made/proposed to be made in the country ; and

(c) the difference between the NRI investments and other foreign Capital investments in the country in view of the sharing of profits, dividend etc. ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) The Centre and States play a promotional role for attracting NRI investments according to the policy laid down by the Government, and the question of their vying with each other does not arise.

(b) A statement is attached giving details of investments in shares and debentures made by non-resident Indians under the various facilities.

(c) Foreign investment is generally allowed on a selective basis and as a vehicle for transfer of sophisticated technology where as NIR investment is permitted even in areas where foreign investment may not be permitted ; and on preferred terms. Once the investment is permitted the sharing of profits, dividend etc will be in proportion to the equity held in the Indian company irrespective of the fact whether the investment is foreign investment or NRI investment.

#### Statement

*Investments allowed to be made by non-residents of Indian nationality/origin and overseas corporate bodies owned to the extent of at least 60 per cent by such persons, under the various schemes since the investment facilities, were liberalised in April 1982, according to the information available with Reserve Bank of India*

Amount (Rs. in crores)

Proposals approved (Position as on 31-5-1984)

I. Direct investments with repatriation rights in shares/debentures :—