

Observation of protest day by Income Tax Officers

702. SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA:
SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Income-tax Officers observed protest day all over the country on the 19th January, 1973; and

(b) if so, what were their main demands and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) Some Class II officers and Class I officers promoted from Class II, of the Income-tax Department, observed a 'Protest Day' on the 19th January, 1973 at a number of places in the charges of Commissioners of Income-tax.

(b) The main grievances/demands were as under:—

(i) Abolition of the Class II cadre and merger of the existing Class II officers in the Class I cadre.

(ii) Removal of the gap in the scales of pay and promotional avenues open to the two categories of officers—direct recruits to the grade of Income Tax Officers, Class I and Income-tax Officers, Class II

(iii) Fair and just Seniority Rules.

2. The Government would await the recommendations of the Pay Commission in regard to the abolition of Class II and Pay scales of the officers. As regards seniority and promotional avenues, the Government have since issued seniority rules which are fair and just and provide for better promotional avenues for Income-tax Officers, Class II.

Writing-off Arrears of Income-tax

703. SHRI D. K. PANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any part of the outstanding Income-tax arrears has been written off in the past three years, if so, the total amount written off;

(b) the names of individuals and companies against whom these arrears were outstanding; and

(c) the reasons for writing off the arrears?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) The total amount of income-tax written off (partly or wholly) during the last three years is as follows:—

Financial Year.	Amount written off. (In rupees).
1969-70	2,38,27,774
1970-71	5,00,17,298
1971-72	4,75,37,918

(b) and (c). The total number of cases in which the arrears of income-tax were written off in the last three years is more than 37000. Collection of information in all these cases will involve considerable time and labour. Arrear demand or a part of it is written off due to any or a combination of the following reasons:—

(i) Assessee have died leaving behind no assets.

(ii) Assessee who are alive but have either no or have inadequate attachable assets.

(iii) Assessee companies have gone into liquidation.

(iv) Assessee have become insolvent.

(v) Assessee are untraceable.

(vi) Assessee have left India.

(vii) Amounts written off as a result of settlement with the assesseses.

(viii) Demands found not due on the basis of subsequent information, such as duplicate demands, demands wrongly made, demands being protective etc.

Fall in India's Annual Export Target

704. SHRI D. K. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the 'Hindustan Standard' (Calcutta) dated the 4th January, 1973 under the caption "Whooping fall in India's annual export target"; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The contents of the news item have been noted.

Supply of Shoes by S.T.C. to U.S.S.R.

705. SHRI DEVINDER SINGH GARCHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether S.T.C. could not comply with an order from U.S.S.R. for supply of five lakh pairs of shoes due to the rise in the cost of raw material;

(b) whether for further supply of shoes to S.T.C. the Footwear Exporters' Federation of India has demanded cash subsidy to the extent of rise in the cost of per pair of shoes since August, 1972, when a fresh order for eight lakh pairs was received from Soviet Union; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) to (c). The U.S.S.R. had indicated their interest

to purchase 5 lakh pairs of shoes at the old rates, and the S.T.C. are negotiating for obtaining higher prices to cover increased costs.

Loan from International Development Association for Development of Small Scale Industries

706. SHRI DEVINDER SINGH GARCHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some schemes have been drawn up to utilise effectively the loan of Rs. 181.97 crores received from the International Development Association for the development of small scale industries; and

(b) what is the period and mode of repayment of this loan?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN):

(a) Government of India have signed an agreement with the International Development Association (I.D.), the soft lending affiliate of the World Bank, on the 9th February, 1973 for a credit of U.S. Dollars 25 million (approximately Rs 182 crores) for Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) Project. The purpose of the credit is to assist IDBI in expanding its activities in financing the development of the small and medium scale industrial sector in India.

(b) The credit to India from I.D. carries no interest but only a service charge at the rate of three-fourths of one per cent (3/4 of 1 per cent). The amount is repayable in half-yearly instalments commencing February 1, 1983 and ending August 1, 2022.

Instructions to Public Sector Banks to Prepare Scheme in regard to requirements of Ladies, People

707. SHRI DEVINDAR SINGH GARCHA: SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public sector Banks have been asked to prepare schemes