

Defaulters of Payments of Income Tax

5798. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of defaulters in the payment of Income-tax in the year 1973-74 in the States of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana and the Union Territories of Delhi and Chandigarh ;

(b) the comparative figures, Statewise for the years 1971-72 and 1972-73 ;

(c) whether Government have taken adequate steps to provide facilities to the Income-tax payers who might have failed to file their returns by due dates ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) : (a) and (b). The requisite information as on 28-2-1974, 31-3-1973 and 31-3-1972 is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as early as possible.

(c) The Government brought into force from 1-9-1972 a scheme called "On the Spot Assessment Scheme" to help assesseees whose total income did not exceed Rs. 15,000/-. Under this Scheme those assesseees who not filed their returns in the past, were enabled to get themselves assessed to Income-tax by voluntarily filing the returns of Income. This scheme was in existence upto 28-2-1973 and provided for immunity from the levy of penalties.

Besides, section 27(4A) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 enables the waiver or reduction by the Commissioner of Income-tax, in his discretion, of penalties imposable on an assessee for failure to file returns of Income or wealth in due time provided the assessee furnishes such return before any notice is issued to him. The law also provides for immunity from prosecution in such cases subject to fulfilment of the prescribed conditions.

Export of Meat to other Countries

5799. SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN :

SHRI C. K. CHANDAPPAN :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a great possibility for India to export meat in the context of international shortage in meat ;

(b) whether the anti-cow slaughter laws in many States stand in the way of developing meat processing industry ;

(c) whether Government are considering to set up a huge meat processing plant in Kerala where there is no anti-cow slaughter legislation to meet the export requirement of meat ; and

(d) if so, the broad features thereof ?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). No, Sir. The Kerala agro Industries Corporation are, however, setting up a meat processing plant for slaughter of buffaloes.

Decline in the Export of Coir Products

5800. SHRI C. JANARDHANAN :

SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the export of coir and coir products declined in quantity, during the current financial year, comparing to the corresponding period of the previous year ;

(b) if so, the extent thereof and the reasons therefor ; and

(c) the names of the importing countries to which there has been a decline in exports ?

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

(b) The exports of coir products recorded a decline of 3,637 tonnes during April-February 1973-74, as compared to the corresponding period of the previous year. The decline in volume of export is mainly due to less off-take of coir yarn and also because of labour strike at Cochin Port in January, 1974.

(c) The major importing countries are West Germany, Yugoslavia, Japan, Burma, Canada, France, Sweden, USSR, Rumania and USA.

Inquiry into unfair practices by foreign banks operating in India

5801. SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO :
SHRI S. N. MISRA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India which was asked by Government to inquire into certain unfair practices by foreign banks operating in India has since submitted its report ; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) : (a) and (b). Presumably, the Hon'ble Members have in mind certain allegations made against the National & Grindlays Bank Ltd. which are being looked into by the Reserve Bank of India. As the Material which had so far become available to the Reserve Bank is not sufficient for reaching definite conclusions about several of the allegations, the bank has been called upon by the Reserve Bank to furnish full information regarding relevant matters.

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Overdrafts by States from Commercial Banks

5802. SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO :
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that some State Governments have resorted to overdrafts from Commercial Banks ;

(b) if so, the names of such States ;

(c) whether the repayment of these overdrafts has been converted into loan concessions ; and

(d) the reasons therefor and total amount of overdrafts converted into loans, State-wise, during the years 1972-73 and 1973-74 ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) : (a) and (b). Normally, State Governments borrow from commercial banks only for specific schemes like food procurement operations, distribution of fertilisers and pesticides, for the requirements of departmentally run enterprises etc.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

Delay in commencement of Trading Operations by T.T.C.I.

5803. SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY :
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the delay in the release of funds by Government is the main reason for the delay in commencement of trading operations by T.T.C.I. ; and

(b) if not, the amount of funds sanctioned and released by Government during the last 12 months against the demands made by the Corporation ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A.
C. GEORGE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) During 1973-74, against a demand of Rs. 8.14 lakhs made by the Corporation, a sum of Rs. 6 lakhs was released.