

Discovery of Copper Bearing Zone in Purulia District, West Bengal

10015. SHRI MAYAVAN :
SHRI N. R. LASKAR :
SHRI DHANDAPANI :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Mines and Minerals Department have recently discovered an 18-foot thick copper-bearing zone at Tamakunum, Purulia district in West Bengal ;

(b) if so, the details of the discovery ; and

(c) how far this has been found useful ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI JAGANATH RAO) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House, when received.

Impact of Demand for Arrears of Taxes from the Film Industry

10016. SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA :
SHRI SURAJ BHAN :
SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH :
SHRI SHARDA NAND :
SHRI DEVINDER SINGH GARCHA :
SHRI B. K. DASCHOW-DHURY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Excise Authorities have demanded tax arrears of over Rs. 1 crore from the film industry ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that upward

revision of taxes has created financial crisis in the film industry ;

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government to ease the situation ; and

(e) the names of the parties from whom the demand has been made and the amount to be recovered.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) Demands of Central Excise duty amounting to Rs. 67.41,584.69 have been raised against certain processors of cinematograph films in respect of the period from 1st April, 1969 to 19th February, 1970. Similar demands have to be raised for the period prior to 1st April, 1969 also, details about which are being worked out.

(b) The above-mentioned demands have been raised in respect of the films which were cleared for home consumption during the month of their certification by the Central Board of Film Censors. These films were initially cleared on payment of duty at concessional rates provided for in the exemption notifications in force from time to time. It was pointed out that according to the language of the notifications the concessional rates provided therein were not applicable to films cleared in the month of certification. Necessary amendments allowing application of the concessional rates to films cleared for home consumption during the month of certification also have been made in the relevant notification with effect from 20th February, 1970. Since prior to this date, all films cleared during the month of certification were legally liable to the tariff rate of duty, demands for differential duty had to be raised.

(c) No, Sir. As already explained, there was no upward revision in the rates of Central Excise duty. Regarding the demands that have so far been raised no action has been taken to ensure the same. There should, therefore, be no question of there being financial crisis in the film industry.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Arrears of Taxes from the Film Industry

Sl. No.	Name of the Party	Amount of Central Excise duty demanded for the period from 1-4-1969 to 19-2-1970 (both days inclusive).
1	2	3
		Rs.
1.	Bombay Film Laboratory.	2,03,134.48
2.	Rajkamal Kala Mandir.	20,238.20
3.	Quality Laboratory.	1,425.60
4.	Ramnord Research Laboratory.	9,08,510.61
5.	Film Centre.	50,18,881.30
6.	Famous Cine Laboratory and Studio	3,32,033.17
7.	Famous Cine, Tardeo.	18,872.54
8.	Kodak Laboratory	2,617.20
9.	India Cine Laboratory.	24,937.35
10.	Modern Sixteen Laboratory.	1,150.32
11.	Basant Picture.	2,09,783.92
TOTAL :		67,41,584.69

Extending of Facilities to Small Borrowers by Nationalised Banks

10017. SHRI HIMATSINGKA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether with a view to extending loan facilities by the nationalised banks to small borrowers, Government propose to experiment with promoting on a vast scale at all levels, voluntary organisations to go initial processing and recommending the cases of genuine borrowers ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) to (c). Government do not consider that they should experiment with promoting voluntary organisations for recommending to nationalised banks loan application from borrowers.

Replacement of Excise Duty by Sales Tax

10018. SHRI HIMATSINGKA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Federation of All India Cloth Merchants Association has opposed the proposal to re-impose sales tax on cloth in view of the existing excise duty as recommended by the Fifth Finance Commission ; and

(b) if so, the grounds advanced by the Federation in support of their plea ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main grounds urged by the Federation are :—

(i) The step would be retrograde

(ii) It would lead to evasion of tax, higher cost of collection etc.

(iii) It would result in disturbing the uniformity in regard to the rate of