

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) As per available information, the pendency of cases in the High Court of Delhi and District/ Subordinate courts in Delhi was as follows :-

| Name of the Court | No. of cases pending as on | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| | 1.1.94 | 1.1.95 | 1.1.96 | 30.9.96 |
| High Court | 1,38,482 | 1,46,613 | 1,48,878* | 1,49,169 |
| District/Sub-ordinate Courts | 4,87,659 | 5,60,444 | 5,14,061 | 4,57,276** |
| | (*As on 30.6.1995) | | | |
| | (**As on 30.6.1996) | | | |

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) On the basis of information made available from the 26 State/Union Territories where Lok Adalats are being organised, the number of cases disposed of during each of the last three years is contained in the statement enclosed.

(d) In order to consider the problem of arrears of cases in courts and find out ways and means to deal with it as expeditiously as possible, a meeting of the Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of the High Court was held on 4th December, 1993, under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister. The resolutions adopted in the Conference has been commended to all the State Governments/UT Administration & High Court including Delhi High Court for necessary follow-up action. Further, the registry of Delhi High Court had informed that the Courts subordinate to Delhi High Court are making every possible effort to expedite the disposal of pending cases.

The Lok Adalat as a method of alternative dispute resolution is popularised through the press and other means of publication and through advocates to impress upon their clients of the utility, fruitfulness and expeditious disposal of the pending cases through Lok Adalats.

STATEMENT

The Number of Cases disposed of through Lok Adalats during each of the last three years viz. 1993, 1994 and 1995 State-wise

(Based on the information provided by the State Legal Aid and Advice Boards)

| S.No | Name of the State Board | Number of cases disposed of during | | |
|------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| | | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 19,525 | 7,767 | 4,753 |
| 2. | Assam | 1,614 | 1,285 | 2,131 |
| 3. | Bihar | 22 | 3,859 | 600 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-----|---------------------------|--|----------|----------|
| 4. | *Goa | 614 (consolidated figure) | | |
| 5. | Gujarat | 13,461 | 15,926 | 19,235 |
| 6. | *Haryana | 25,575 | 23,149 | 20,353 |
| 7. | Himachal Pradesh | 5,426 | 5,628 | 3,193 |
| 8. | Jammu & Kashmir | -do- | | |
| 9. | Karnataka | 54,289 | 15,019 | 20,447 |
| 10. | Kerala | 14,922 (consolidated figure for the last 3 years) | | |
| 11. | Madhya Pradesh | 59,041 | 79,899 | 1,36,389 |
| 12. | *Maharashtra | 8,799 | 12,079 | 10,719 |
| 13. | Manipur | 712 (consolidated figure) | | |
| 14. | *Meghalaya | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| 15. | Mizoram | 70 (consolidated figure for the last 3 years) | | |
| 16. | Orissa | 64,849 | 81,603 | 43,022 |
| 17. | *Punjab | 14,279 | 12,447 | 2,188 |
| 18. | Rajasthan | 79,685 | 70,873 | 56,772 |
| 19. | Sikkim | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| 20. | Tamil Nadu | 8,330 | 11,346 | 8,251 |
| 21. | Tripura | Information not furnished by the Board | | |
| 22. | *Uttar Pradesh | 3,18,285 | 3,10,687 | 3,08,495 |
| 23. | West Bengal | 96 | 53 | 316 |
| 24. | Chandigarh Administration | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| 25. | Delhi | 598 | 949 | 2,898 |
| 26. | @ Pondicherry | 863 (consolidated figure) | | |

* For the Financial Year viz. 1993-94, 1994-95 & 1995-96

@ For the Financial Years viz. 1992-93, 1993-94 & 1994-95

Infrastructure Monitoring Cell

3260. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the infrastructure monitoring cell under the Ministry of Planning and Programme Implementation is being scrapped;

(b) if so, the rationale behind the move; and

(c) the other superfluous cells to be wind up to control Government expenditure and fiscal deficit?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The Department of Programme Implementation has reported that no decision has yet been taken regarding abolition of the Infrastructure Monitoring Division of that Department.

(c) The control of Government expenditure and Fiscal Deficit is a continuous exercise. Any specific

decision about the winding up of cells identified as superfluous is to be taken by the concerned Ministry/Department.

Pilcom I.T. Evasion issue

3261. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Pilcom IT evasion issue catches CAG eye, raps Central Board of Direct taxes for rescuing Co." appearing in the 'Economic Times' New Delhi dated October 13, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the reaction of the Government in regard thereto; and

(d) the steps taken so far to verify whether tax has been deducted at source and remitted to the exchequer and payments made on various contracts entered into by Pak-India Lanka Joint Management Committee (PILCOM) and others and also to review the double taxation avoidance agreement (DTAA) as existing at present?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. In the light of the clarifications issued by Central Board of Direct Taxes, the field authorities have been advised to take appropriate steps on issues related to tax.

As regards review of the existing double Taxation Avoidance Agreements, there is no proposal under consideration for review with reference to this particular issue.

Bank Accounts of Tata Group Companies

3262. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :
SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve bank of India has decided to launch investigations into the bank accounts of TATA Sons and other top. Tata group Companies following the evidence gathered by the Bank that these corporates had used huge amounts of banks' funds to shore up their cross holdings in one another in violation of the Bank's rules;

(b) the major investments made by Tata Group Companies;

(c) the *modus operandi* followed by the TATA Group and its Companies in this behalf; and

(d) the outcome of the investigations and the follow-up action being taken by the R.B.I.?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Indian Trade Missions Abroad

3263. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up separate Indian Trade Missions abroad with a view to have close trade relations with U.S.A., Germany, Japan, U.K., France, China and Russia and to play more aggressive economic diplomacy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the other measures proposed to be taken by the Government to increase exports, earn more foreign exchange to repay huge foreign loans and speed up anti-dumping investigations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c). No such proposal is under consideration. Commercial Wings attached to the Indian Missions in these countries are handling economic, commercial and trade matters.

Dereservation of Ice Cream and Bakery Items from SSI

3264. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering a proposal for dereservation of ice-cream and bakery items from the small-scale sector;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to allow multinationals to enter into the field of these two items;

(c) whether the Government also propose to raise the investment limit for these items in the small-scale sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) its effect on the small-scale sector in the country?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (e). The Government have received proposals for de-reservation of certain food items like ice cream, bread and biscuits. No decision has been taken either to de-reserve these items or to raise the investment limit for these items in the small scale sector. As per the present policy, no medium or large scale undertaking including multinationals is permitted to manufacture reserved items except under 75% export obligation. Govt. are, however, awaiting the recommendations of the Expert Committee headed by Mr. Abid Hussain on all aspects of SSI Sector.

Decline in Production of Cement

3265. SHRI RAM SHAKAL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY BE pleased to state :

(a) the details alongwith the number of factories manufacturing cement in the country Statewise;