

to the amount not exceeding the salary/wage for the balance period of service left (at the rate of monthly salary/wage at the time of voluntary retirement).

Amendment of Service Rules in PSUs

1041. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the service rules of public sector undertakings for taking disciplinary action against the retired PSU Officers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL) : (a) and (b) As per the Articles of Association of PSUs, matter relating to Service Rules including Conduct, Discipline and Appeal (CDA) Rules fall within the purview of managements of Public Sector Undertakings. However, Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances have conducted a study on Vigilance Set-up in Public Sector undertakings which, inter-alia, provides for the PSUs to amend the CDA Rules for enabling disciplinary action being taken against retired officers in PSUs. The details are being worked out in this regard.

Outstanding Income Tax

1042. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of income tax outstanding against individuals and companies as on March, 31, 1998;

(b) the names of the individuals and companies against whom amount of income tax worth more than Rs. 50 lakhs is outstanding, till date, indicating the amount outstanding against each of them;

(c) the reasons for which such a huge amount is outstanding against them; and

(d) the measures taken to recover the outstanding dues from them with the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) The total amount of income tax outstanding as on 31st March, 98 is Rs. 21,168 crores against individuals, HUFs, firms and other non-corporate assesses and Rs. 20,062 crores against companies.

(b) As the list of names of individuals and companies against whom outstanding income-tax is Rs. 50 lakhs will be quite voluminous, the time and efforts involved in its presentation may not be commensurate with the objectives sought to be achieved.

(c) The reasons for accumulation of arrears mainly include:

i) the tax demands are disputed in appeal,

ii) demands are stayed under the orders of Courts, Tribunals and departmental authorities.

(b) The recovery of tax is a continuous process involving detailed statutory procedures. These include charging of interest, levy of penalty, attachment of bank accounts, attachment and sale of movable and immovable properties etc. Periodical review and monitoring of cases involving high demands are made by higher authorities on a continuous basis and necessary instructions are issued from time to time for effecting the recovery of taxes.

[Translation]

Setting up of SSI based on Silica Sand

1043. SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Silica Sand is available abundantly in Dabhora region of Rewa district in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the scheme of the Government for the industrial exploitation of the above ore;

(c) whether, the Government propose to set up a small scale industry based on Silica Sand or any other industry in the above area; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) Yes, Sir. Deposits of Silica Sand are available in Dabhora, Uchiraya, Majhhaar and Pokargram areas of Rewa district in Madhya Pradesh.

(b) to (d) The Infrastructure facilities and incentives available for setting up small scale industries are also extended to the entrepreneurs desirous for setting up Silica based industries like silicates. However, no specific scheme has been drawn by the Government for setting up industries based on Silica Sand.

[English]

Tourism Circuit in Orissa

1044. SHRI PRABHAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have presented a proposal to Government of Japan for creation of new tourism circuit at Kendrapara in the areas of Lalitagiri, Ratnagiri, Udaigiri, Kendrapara, Hukitola, Bhitarkanika, Chandbali, Bhadrak and Jajpur in Orissa at an estimated cost of Rs. 348 crores; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, A project proposal for Infrastructure Development for ECO Tourism and Cultural Exchange, Orissa was posed to the OECF of Japan through the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance for assistance under OECF (Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund) 1998-99 loan package. The total investment involved in the project was about Rs. 348 crores. The project had specific schemes for the improvement of tourist facilities and attractions in various locations such as Dhauli, Nandankanan Complex, Udaygiri, Lalitagiri, Ratnagiri, Pathrajpur, Langudi, Kendraparha, Hukitola, Gupti, Bhitarkanika, Chandbali and Aradi.

A fact finding mission from Japan visited India on 10th Feb, 1998 to discuss the project. Later the Department of Economic Affairs communicated to Ministry of Tourism in April, 1998 that the Govt. of Japan have identified Orissa Project as "not suitable to be financed"

Tax to GDP Ratio

1045. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 'tax-to-GDP ratio' has come down in India in comparison with higher tax-to-GDP ratio' in many least developed countries;

(b) whether the record of tax compliance of the Indian Industry is not commensurate with the incentives and concessions announced in the current budget; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the industry reciprocates the Government's gestures in terms of tax compliance?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) The ratios of current tax revenue to GDP in India and selected low income countries in 1980 and 1996 are indicated below:

Tax/GDP ratio (percent)

Country	1980	1996
1. Burundi	13.2	11.2
2. Cameroon	15.0	9.4
3. India	9.8	10.3
4. Kenya	19.1	20.2
5. Madagascar	12.9	8.4
6. Nepal	6.6	8.8
7. Pakistan	13.3	15.3
8. Sri Lanka	19.1	16.9
9. Zambia	23.1	16.7

(b) and (c) The tax compliance is affected not only by incentives and concessions given to several sectors but

also by a number of factors such as tax structure, tax base and rules and procedures. Over the last few years Government has simplified and rationalised the complex and opaque tax structure in a calibrated way with the objective of moderating rates, reducing number of exemptions, simplifying procedural rules and regulations, achieving better compliance and widening the tax base. The budget for 1998-99 continued the emphasis on simplification, lower rates and greater buoyancy.

Subsidy to State Government

1046. SHRI K. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study was made with regard to giving subsidies to State Governments for procurement of food products recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of subsidy has been released to the Government of Tamil Nadu in this regard so far;

(d) whether any suggestions were given by the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of (a) above question does not arise.

(c) No subsidy has been given to Government of Tamil Nadu in this regard.

(d) and (e) Government of West Bengal has been procuring rice under decentralised scheme from Kharif Marketing season 1997-98. Proposals from Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Bihar have been received by the Deptt. of Food and Civil Supplies. The responsibility of the Govt. of India is limited to reimbursement of the differential between the economic cost of foodgrains of FCI and the Central Issue Price.

[Translation]

Offices of Tourism Department in Foreign Countries

1047. SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the offices of the Department of Tourism functioning in the foreign countries;

(b) the achievements made by these offices during the last three years;

(c) whether their performance has been found satisfactory;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have decided to open some more such offices abroad; and