

- (iv) A detailed interaction was held with the automotive industry by the Joint Secretary in July 1998.
- (v) Meeting of the Development Council for Automobile and Allied Industries was held on 6.11.1998 chaired by Secretary (IPP).

A Working Group set up by the Ministry of Finance recently also reviewed in detail the performance of the commercial vehicles sector of the automotive industry with a view to identifying measures required to boost the industry.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The main reasons for a sharp decline in the production and sale of commercial vehicles during 1997-98 were sluggish demand due to a slump in the economy and also the industry as a whole, inadequate spending on infrastructure projects, as also the international recessionary trend.

I.T. Raids on Multinational Companies

1104. SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN :

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Income Tax authorities in Delhi have conducted raids at Multinational Companies in the month of September this year and found Income tax irregularities worth crores of rupees;

(b) if so, the facts of the details thereof;

(c) whether the involved MNCs would be black-listed and they would not be linked with Government on business issues;

(d) If so, whether any further action would be initiated against them as per law; and

(e) if so, the details 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) No raids have been conducted by the Directorate of Income Tax (Investigation), Delhi on Multinational Companies in the month of September, 1998.

(b) to (e) In view of (a) above, the question does not arise.

Joint Sampling of Coal

1105. SHRIMATI BHAVNA DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the practice of joint sampling of coal at power station end was in the vogue in recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the practice has been abandoned unilaterally by the Coal India Limited (CIL);

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Gujarat Government has requested for the revival of the practice;

(f) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto;

(g) whether the Government propose to reintroduce the system; and

(h) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) to (h) Upto 1982 coal sampling was done by the coal company at the loading end. In August, 1982, the then Ministry of Energy decided that on a trial basis sampling and quality checking should be undertaken jointly at the unloading end. Later in December, 1986 the Ministry of Energy decided that sampling and quality checking should be undertaken by an independent organisation under Central Electricity Authority (CEA) at the loading end. As the CEA could not implement this decision, in October, 1991, the Committee of Secretaries decided that sampling and quality will be determined by the Coal controller at the loading end. This decision was reiterated in June, 1995 by the Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure with a modification that legally enforceable contracts are to be entered into between the supplier and consumer and sampling and quality should be determined jointly at the loading end.

Since most of the SEBs were not co-operating with coal companies in this regard a meeting was convened by Secretary (Coal) with the Council of Power Utilities and an arrangement has been evolved in principle according to which coal would be sampled by the same sampling agency at the loading end and at the unloading end. The concerned SEBs and coal companies would decide the agency which could be entrusted with the work of sampling of coal. The agencies for carrying out sampling of coal both loading and unloading end have since been identified. It is now for the individual power house including that of Gujarat Electricity Board and the coal companies to work out the ground details.

[Translation]

Use of Hindi in Bank Examination

1106. SHRI RAM/ AND SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of nationalised banks and financial institutions in which no option is given in the direct recruitment as well as departmental examinations to write the