

An All India level Official Language Conference of Banks is organised every year by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) where discussions are held on different subjects pertaining to the implementation of the Official Language Policy of the Government and resolutions are passed. Representatives from all public sector banks and financial institutions participate in this All India Conference. Therefore, it was earlier decided that an all India Conference of Banks on Official Language on the lines of the conference organised in 1988, 1990 and 1991 may not be necessary. However, in order to give an added impetus to the effective implementation of the Official Language Policy, the Ministry have requested the Indian Banks Association (IBA) to convene a National Level Official Language Conference once in three years. IBA have agreed with the proposal.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Besides making efforts to achieve the targets stipulated in the annual programme, issued by the Department of Official Language, a request has also been made to Indian Banks' Association to organise various programmes between 14th September 1999 and 13th September 2000 for taking affective measures for propagation/implementation of Official Language to mark the Golden Jubilee Year of Official Language.

[English]

Requirement of Funds for Textiles Mills in Gujarat

640. DR. VALLABH BHAI KATHIRIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total of number of NTC mills in Gujarat and the production capacity thereof;

(b) the installed production capacity of the mills;

(c) whether the installed production capacity of the mills is sufficient to meet the increasing demand of textiles;

(d) if not, the required installed capacity to meet the demand and the funds required for that purpose;

(e) whether the Government propose to invite private sector mills to achieve the required results; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the progress made in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) NTC has 11 mills located in Gujarat, with a total installed capacity of 296656 spindles, 6019 looms and processing capacity of 4.50 lakh mtrs per day.

(c) to (f) The total production of different sectors of textile industry is adequate not only for the requirements of the country but also for exports.

Uttar Pradesh Export Corporation

641. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the handloom and powerloom weavers are facing problems in Kanpur, U.P. due to rise in the prices of cotton and non-export of manufactured goods and the weavers are on the verge of starvation because Uttar Pradesh Export Corporation is not purchasing goods from the small weavers; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the State and Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) On the basis of information available from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh it is incorrect to state that weavers are on the verge of starvation because Uttar Pradesh Export Corporation is not purchasing goods from small weavers. The State Government has informed that at the beginning of every financial year the U.P. Export Corporation floats tender notices inviting Societies as well as individual weavers to attend the Purchase Committee meetings for procurement of goods to be sold through the outlets of the Corporation. Besides, individual weavers and Cooperative Societies are also motivated by the District Industries Centres to attend the Purchase Committee meeting and also sell their products through the U.P. Export Corporation.

Money Laundering Scam

642. SHRI KAMAL NATH:
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:
DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD:
SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN:
SHRI P. SANKARAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a money laundering scam running into thousands of crores of rupees through misuse of the Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme has been unearthed in the metropolitan cities of Mumbai, Delhi and Calcutta;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken against the errants declarants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) No Sir. VDIS, 1997 did not envisage the holding of any inquiries either at the time of declarations, or at the stage of issue of certificates by the Commissioners of Income Tax. These declarations will become relevant when credit for the amount declared is introduced in the books of accounts of the declarant, and the consequential assessments are taken up for scrutiny.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

Permanent Account Number

643. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA:
DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI K.S. RAO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Doubts surface over efficacy of PAN system" published in 'Hindustan Times' (Delhi) dated February 1,1999;

(b) if so, the main drawbacks pointed out in the said press report with respect to the PAN system;

(c) the Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) the steps taken if any or are contemplated to remove the said drawbacks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (d) The

news item has referred to possible use of permanent account number (PAN) cards and credit cards which are not genuine and had been obtained by unscrupulous persons using incorrect names and addresses to defeat the provisions relating to quoting of PAN or GIR No. The provisions relating to PAN has become operational only from 1st November, last year and is still in the process of setting down. The question of taking rigorous steps on the basis of possibility of misuse in isolated cases, does not arise at this stage.

[Translation]

Loans for Construction of Houses by LIC

644. SHRI INDRAJEET MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total assets of Life Insurance Corporation;

(b) the total amount received from the various policy holders;

(c) the names of the institutions provided loans by LIC for construction of houses for individuals;

(d) the amount provided for the purpose; and

(e) the amount of loan given to each State Government for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) The total assets of the Life Insurance Corporation as on 31.03.1998 amounts to Rs. 10995.437 crores.

(b) The total amount received by way of premium on policies from various policy holders as on 31.03.1998 is Rs. 19356.759 crores.

(c) The following are the names of the agencies to which LIC grants loan for Housing Sector:

(i) State Governments for financing social housing schemes (General & Rural) as per allocation made by the Planning Commission.

(ii) State level Co-operative Housing federations for on-lending to their member Co-operative Housing Societies for construction/purchase of houses by individual members of the Co-operative Societies.