

External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) norms has been recommended.

- (vii) Government has set up an Empowered Committee to examine and assist specific Research and Development Projects to improve technology for steel making and enhance the quality of Indian Steel.

[Translation]

#### Scheme for Tax Payers

3698. SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISHRA :

SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the number of tax payers and the amount of tax collected have registered an increase; .
- (b) if so, the extent of increase in the number of tax payers and the amount of tax collection;
- (c) whether the Government is formulating any scheme to further push up the number of tax payers and the tax collection; and
- (d) if so, the details of the Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of number of tax payers, the amount of tax collected and the increase registered in the same is as follows:

#### Number of tax payers

Year.	Effective number of tax payers	Increase in Effective number of payers
1994-95	1,02,84,606	—
1995-96	1,06,64,514	3,79,908
1996-97	1,16,43,543	9,79,029
1997-98	1,31,67,736	15,24,193
1998-99 (upto 30th Sept. 98 latest available)	1,42,48,072	

#### Collection during

(Rs. in crores)

Taxes	1998-99	1997-98	Increase
Corporation Tax	23608*	20016	3592
Income Tax	19420*	17101	2319
Interest Tax	1208*	1205	3

\* Figures are provisional. The final figures of collection during 1998-99 are not available so far.

(c) and (d) The Income Tax Department has undertaken a concerted drive to extend the national tax base. As a method of identifying potential tax payers, the 'one by six' scheme was extended to 35 cities in 1998-99. The scheme will now be extended to 19 more cities in the country in 1999-2000. As a consequence of this scheme, the number of tax payers and the amount of tax collections have undergone a steady increase.

#### Increase in Salary of NTC Labourers

3699. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the representations of the Union had reached to an agreement to increase Rs. 175 in the monthly salary of the NTC and private mill labourers;
- (b) if so, whether its benefits has been given only to private mill labourers;
- (c) if so, the time by which that benefit is proposed to be given to the NTC mill labourers; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) Rashtriya Mill Mazdoor Sangh, a representative union of textile industry in local area of Brihan Mumbai and textile mill owners' Association had reached an agreement dated 26.4.96 to grant Rs. 175/- as increase in monthly salary and allowances of all the textile mills employees governed by Bombay Industrial Relations Act, 1946. All the private sector textile mills located in Brihan Mumbai have implemented this agreement but the same has not been implemented by the local NTC mills due to the reference of the subsidiary corporation of NTC in Maharashtra to BIFR. The clause number 9 (b) of the agreement states that in case of mills which are declared as sick units under the Sick Industrial Companies Act (Special Provision) Act, 1985 payment of enhanced emoluments is subject to the sanction of BIFR.

(c) and (d) Extending the benefit to the NTC mill workers can be considered only after BIFR has approved the same.

[English]

#### Clearance of Imported Woollen Rags

3700. SHRI GEORGE EDEN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the different laws are adopted in clearance of imported woollen rags Consignments in different Customs Houses in the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the adjudication of synthetic/woollen rags has been made by the Cochin Customs Houses before de-stuffing the goods as per port records in the last year; and