

(a) the number of cases filed before the Debts Recovery Tribunal (DRT) Bangalore, during the last three years, till date;

(b) the number of employees including Officers working in the above Tribunal;

(c) whether due to inadequate staff, there had been delay in disposing off these cases; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to sanction additional staff immediately?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Debts Recovery Tribunal (DRT), Bangalore, has reported that during the years 1997, 1998 and 1999 (upto 31-3-1999), 2875 cases were filed before the Tribunal.

(b) to (d) At present 21 Officers/employees are in position in the DRT at Bangalore. Initially, 19 posts (including Officers) were sanctioned by the Government. However, after review of the work load by the Government, 10 additional posts were sanctioned for each Tribunal including DRT Bangalore during 1997-98.

Import of Obsolete Machinery

3834. SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether incidence of import of outdated and obsolete second hand machines has increased sharply in the recent times;

(b) if so, the conditions/rules being followed presently for making import of second hand machines;

(c) whether present rules have no stipulation about the age of the imported second hand machines;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Confederation of Indian Industry has suggested for restrictions on import of second hand machines; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) to (f) Although no separate statistics are maintained for import of second hand Capital goods there have been reports of such goods being imported in various sectors. The CII has also suggested that such imports should be restricted. Keeping in view these suggestions as also the need for modernisation and upgradation of the domestic industry, the Government has decided to restrict the import of secondhand Capital goods with effect from 31.03.99.

Financial Aids to Investors Association

3835. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

the amount of financial aid or reimbursement given to the Investors Associations by National Stock Exchange, Bombay Stock Exchange, Calcutta Stock Exchange, Delhi Stock Exchange and Uttar Pradesh Stock Exchange during 1994-95 to 1997-98 with year-wise break up?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Loan Through LIC

3836. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Life Insurance Corporation is providing loans to various state Governments according to the plan of the Centre for implementation of water supply and disposal of sewage schemes in different towns;

(b) whether amount to be received becomes less than 50 percent on the basis and method on which loan has to be given; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to provide full amount of loans so that projects can be completed?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) LIC has reported that they sanction loans for financing water supply and sewerage schemes depending upon the cost of the schemes. On the basis of the allocation by the Planning Commission, the State Governments/State level Water Authorities submit their proposals to LIC for sanction of loan. According to the graded pattern LIC grants loans to the extent of 67% to 50% depending on the cost of Schemes. In the case of Rural Water Supply Schemes LIC grants loan up to a maximum of 50% of the cost and the balance cost is generally met out of State Government grants. LIC's pattern of financing such schemes is adopted with a view to fund a large number of schemes. LIC also provides loans to cover the escalation in the original estimated cost of the schemes to the extent upto 25% of the difference between the original and revised estimated cost.

Investment in Infrastructure Projects

3837. SHRI DAROGA PRASAD SAROJ :

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export group related to commercialisation has emphasised over the need of heavy investment in the infrastructure sector;