

(b) whether the Government have made any assessment about the loss of revenue as a result of the entry of multi-national companies with 100% FDI in this sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and whether the Government propose to conduct such assessment; and

(e) if so, the time by which such assessment is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) Amount of excise duty collected on cigarettes during the last two years is as given below:

Year	Excise duty amount
1996-97	Rs. 3982 crore
1997-98	Rs. 4454 crore (Provisional)

Statistics relating to the collection of ir. e tax are not maintained in an industry-wise manner.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

(d) Presently, there is no proposal under consideration for any duty/tax concessions for cigarette industry. Therefore, no such assessment is required.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

Shortage of Staff in Banks

3206. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of staff in nationalised banks, particularly in the Central Bank of India;

(b) if so, the bank-wise details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to recruit more staff in these banks?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) No shortage of staff has been reported

in nationalised banks except Indian Overseas Bank, Central Bank of India, Bank of Maharashtra, Vijaya Bank & Corporation Bank. These banks have taken steps to make J the shortage through direct recruitments/promotions.

Central Bank of India has reported that overall there is no shortage of staff but in certain States particularly Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and North Bengal there is shortfall in clerical cadre. As regards subordinate staff, the bank has shortages particularly in the categories of armed guards, drivers and sub-staff for newly opened branches. The main reason for the shortage in certain areas is due to difficulty in inter-station mobility of clerks & sub-staff. The bank has approached the RBI with a request to grant permission for recruitment of need based staff particularly for the above mentioned States.

Survival of A.F.T. Mills, Pondicherry

3207. SHRI S. ARUMUGHAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether an expert committee had submitted its report on August 5, 1994 about the feasibility at A.F.T. Mills at Pondicherry and the suggestions for the survival of the A.F.T. Mills;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have made arrangements for the necessary funds of 50 crores of rupees for the modernisation of A.F.T. Mills either by bank loans or any other means;

(d) whether the Government will issue the order for C.B.I. inquiry on the malpractices and mismanagement in the above mills; and

(e) the details of the steps taken by the Government to survive the Mill?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (e) Information is being collected from the State Government.

Income Tax Payers

3208. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI:
SHRI RAMA CHANDRA MALLICK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Income Tax payers in Delhi;