

Income Tax Evasion

595. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware the top echelon of Society *i.e.* Bureaucrats, Big Businessmen, Film Industry and its Stars, Doctors, Self styled Godmen etc. are evading Income Tax with impunity and the Income Tax Department do not appear to be very serious about this;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether some known public figures were caught from Income Tax evasion but the dues have not been recovered in full from them; and

(d) if so, steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to strengthen the Central Income Tax Department to carry out frequent raids and check Income Tax evasion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Government are concerned about the tax evasion by the various sections of society including bureaucrats, big businessmen, film personalities, professionals etc. Whenever specific instances of tax evasion come to the knowledge of Income Tax Department, necessary actions including detailed scrutiny, survey and search & seizure are taken against the evaders.

(c) Cases of tax evasion by some known public figures are under investigation by the Income Tax Department. Recoveries of dues are made as per the procedure laid down in the Income tax Act after assessments are completed and appeals are finalised.

(d) Government have been taking necessary administrative, fiscal and legislative measures, as deemed appropriate, from time to time to check tax evasion and strengthen the enforcement machinery of the Department.

NTC Mills

596. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :
SHRI K. PARASURAMAN :
DR. M. JAGANNATH :
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN :
SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :
SHRI SYDIAH KOTA :
SHRI SANAT MEHTA :
SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :
SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN :
PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total losses suffered by NTC as on date;

(b) whether the Government have decided to handover sick National Textile Corporation Mills to the respective State Governments;

(c) if so, the details regarding financial liabilities;

(d) whether the Union Government have agreed to bear the burden of loan and interest liabilities extended by banking sector to NTC;

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken to ensure the interests of the textile mill workers before handing over the mills to State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) The total net loss suffered by the NTC mills as on 30.6.97 is of the order of Rs. 4630 crores (Prov.).

(b) to (f) An offer to take over sick textile mills at a nominal cost or even free of cost was made to the respective State Governments provided the State Governments were willing to accept the responsibility of running the viable mills and protecting the interest of the workers. Offer was also made that the Central Government would write-off/waive the loans given by the Govt. of India/NTC (HC) to these mills and interest thereon as well as the amount of VRS paid to the workers who had accepted voluntary retirement. In addition, the Govt. of India would be willing to discharge the liabilities towards arrears of statutory dues of the workers. The Govt. is not agreed to bear the burden of loan and interest liabilities extended by banking sector. The Government of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan have declined the offer. No concrete response has been received from the other State Government to whom the offer was made. Since a positive response has not been received from any of the State Governments to whom the offer was made, the financial liabilities and other details have not been worked out.

Export/Import of Rice

597. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN :
DR. G.R. SARODE :
DR. SAHEBRAO SUKRAM BAGUL :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum and varieties of rice exported to foreign countries during each of the last three years;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned therefrom during the above period, year-wise;

(c) whether there has been a decline in the foreign exchange earning on this world;

(d) whether certain varieties of rice were also imported by the country during the above period;

(e) if so, the year-wise details thereof; and

(f) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (c) The quantity and value of Basmati and Non-Basmati Rice exported during the last three years are as follows:—

Quantity: Lakh MTs.

Value: Rs. Crores.

Year	Basmati Rice		Non-Basmati Rice	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
1994-95	4.42	865.32	4.48	340.47
1995-96	3.73	850.67	45.41	3717.41
1996-97	4.89	1197.75	19.85	1952.83
1997-98 (Apr.-Aug. '98)	2.19	604.86	6.97	560.24
1996-97 (Apr.-Aug. '97)	2.19	486.18	9.36	885.39

(Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta)

(d) to (f) The quantity and value of rice imported during the last three years are as follows:—

Year	Quantity: MTs.	
	Quantity	Value
1994-95	6990	855.31
1995-96	80	9.69
1996-97	—	—
1997-98 (April-Aug., '97)	18	2.79

(Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta)

Import of common/coarse varieties of rice with 50% or more broken has been permitted freely after review of the emerging trends in supply and stock of rice by the Government with effect from 27.05.1997.

Tobacco Board

598. SHRI A.C. JOSE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have agreed to give more powers to the Tobacco Board to check the sales of tobacco outside the auctions to ensure better prices for the growers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) Laws, Rules and Regulations administered by this Ministry are reviewed to assess their efficacy and effectiveness in attaining the desired objectives. As and when the situation so warrants, suitable amendments are made to enhance their effectiveness.

Export Performance

599. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the export performance of Export Processing Zones and Export Processing Units during the Seventh and Eighth Plan, Unit-wise;