

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMECE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. A total of 4 cases have been registered by CBI in 1995-96. (c) A Statement is attached.

STATEMENT

	Details of Cases	Date Regd. by CBI	Against MMTC Officers	Remarks
(i)	M/s. Vijay Sea Food Int'l	29.2.1996	1 Manager	Cases registered after vigilance investigations had been completed by MMTC and the Ex-CGM was imposed major penalty of down grading to the post of GM. CBI's report relating to Vijaya Sea Food has been received on 25.2.1997.
(ii)	Unauthorised credit sales of Fertilizers to 5 selected dealers of Vijayawada	29.2.1996	1 Sr. Manager	The case was referred by MMTC to CBI on 29.1.96. The CBI investigation report was received on 15.1.97 advising initiation of 'Major' penalty proceedings against the officer. The chargesheet is under issue to the Sr. Manager. Original records in both these cases are being obtained from CBI for further follow-up action.

Revival of Braithwaite & Co

3275. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the revival status of Braithwaite and Co. Ltd. is as per sanctioned scheme of BIFR;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have released the sanctioned fund for its revival;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith its impact on the profitability; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The BIFR sanctioned scheme envisages fresh fund infusion of Rs. 26.68 crore inclusive of Rs. 8.38 crore for rationalisation of manpower, conversion of Government loan into equity and write-off of outstanding interest on Government loan. The revival scheme also envisages State Bank of India waiving penal interest of Rs. 62.32 lakhs, converting outstanding interest amount of Rs. 1.38 crore into funded interest term loan and extending need-based working capital. The scheme is under implementation.

(c) to (e) Government has released Rs. 9.38 crore so far and a budgetary provision of Rs. 8.19 crore has been made in RE 1999-97. Fund for rationalisation is not required as the Company has already reached the desired manpower level. Although the performance of the Company suffered during 1995-96 mainly due to delay in release of

wagon orders, there has been distinct improvement in the working results of the Company during 1996-97 indicating signs of turnaround.

Exchange Control Regulation

3276. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the RBI has announced major relaxations in exchange control regulations;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the RBI has also liberalised the existing regulations in regard to payments for various kinds of feasibility studies, legal services, postal imports and purchase of designs and drawings; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and how for the banks/ country's export is likely to be benefited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Details are furnished in Statement-I.

(b) Yes, Sir. Details are furnished in Statement-II.

(d) This is expected to promote trade since exporters/importers etc. Will be able to remit for the purpose indicated in the annexures, through authorised dealers without RBI's prior approval, procedural delays would be avoided and speedier settlement of transactions/payments would be made.

STATEMENT-I

The following major relaxations in Exchange Control Regulations have been announced by RBI since 1st January, 1997.

1. Solicitor's fees/average adjustor's fees.

The existing ceiling of remittances upto US\$ 10,000 towards Solicitor's fees/average Adjustor's fee etc. by Indian Shipping Companies has been removed. Authorised Dealers have been permitted to allow such remittances on actual basis i.e. without any monetary limit.

2. Maintenance/annual service charges for imported machinery/software.

Authorised dealers have been delegated powers to allow such remittances on the basis of contracts entered into by Indian companies with overseas companies.

3. Establishment of overseas offices by exporters.

The existing ceiling of foreign exchange release of US\$ 25,000 or its equivalent towards initial expenses for opening of non-trading offices abroad and upto US\$ 10,000 or its equivalent for posting representatives abroad by Indian firms/companies has been removed. Authorised Dealers have been permitted to release foreign exchange for the initial expenses for the purpose upto the actual expenses to be incurred by the applicant firm/company.

4. Retainer's fees payable by Indian companies to the overseas companies/firms.

Authorised dealers have been permitted to allow Indian companies/firms to remit the actual amount of retainer fees payable to their overseas agents who will render services for promotion of exports provided the applicant company/firm does not have a non-trading/trading/trading office or representative posted at that centre.

5. Appointment/posting of correspondents/representatives by newspapers/news agencies/periodicals.

Authorised dealers have been permitted to allow remittance of actual monthly maintenance expenses incurred/to be incurred by the correspondent/representative posted abroad by the Indian newspapers/news agencies/periodicals as per the terms and conditions of their appointment irrespective of the country of posting and nature of appointment.

6. Electronic data base costs.

The existing limit of US\$ 10,000 for release of exchange by ADs has been removed. ADs have been permitted to allow the actual charges incurred by Indian companies towards data base costs, computer connect/time charges, software charges, hit charges, etc.

7. Advertisements in print media abroad.

Authorised dealers have been permitted to allow remittances of the actual cost of advertisements in print media abroad such as overseas newspapers/periodicals by firms/

companies/organisations as well as banks/financial institutions in India.

STATEMENT-II

The details of the regulations liberalised by RBI in regard to payments for feasibility studies, legal services, postal imports and purchase of designs and drawings.

1. Feasibility/pre-feasibility studies for projects in India.

Authorised dealers have been delegated powers to allow remittances towards feasibility/pre-feasibility studies for project in India on the basis of contract entered into by Indian companies with overseas companies.

2. Legal services.

The monetary limit of US\$ 10,000 or its equivalent towards expenses incurred on legal services relating to import transactions has been removed. Authorised dealers have been permitted to allow remittances of actual expenses incurred/to be incurred on legal services relating to import transactions.

3. Postal imports.

The existing monetary limit of US\$ 5,000 or its equivalent for postal imports has been removed. Authorised dealers have been permitted to allow remittances of the actual cost of the goods imported through post parcel irrespective of the amount involved.

4. Import of designs and drawings.

Authorised dealers were permitted to allow remittances towards import of designs and drawings upto Rs. 25 Lakhs or its equivalent. They have now been permitted to allow remittances towards the actual cost of designs and drawings imported by their importer clients.

[Translation]

**Pending Cases in District and
Session Courts of U.P.**

3277. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of different nature lying pending with various district courts of Uttar Pradesh and Allahabad High Court till 15th February, 1997;

(b) whether the cases are lying pending with the above courts in a large number; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for speedy disposal of the civil cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) As per the available information, as on 30.4.1996, 8,41,085 and 31,12,460 cases were pending in Allahabad High Court and Subordinate Courts in the