

However, on 2.7.96 proceedings have been instituted by the US against India for non-implementation of the TRIPS Agreement under the Dispute Settlement Understanding of the World Trade Organization which are being dealt with separately.

Educational Loan

3552. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has formulated certain rules relating to grant of educational loan by the nationalised banks for medical and dental courses;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present annual income ceiling fixed for granting such loans;

(c) whether the nationalised banks have requested the RBI to lift the income ceiling on the above loans to help large number of deserving students; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) advised all public sector banks to provide loans to students admitted in Medical/Dental Colleges in private professional colleges during the academic year 1995-96 according to the following criteria :

Loan upto Rs. 15,000/- to free/merit students and Rs. 50,000/- to payment students admitted to a medical/dental college in private professional colleges provided the students comply with the following :

(i) A certificate from the concerned college that he is admitted against a free/payment seat.

(ii) An affidavit by the student and his father (in the case of absence of the father, by mother or other near relative) that the total annual income of the student's family does not exceed Rs. 50,000/-.

(iii) A bond executed by the student (in case the student is minor, by the father/mother or the guardian) undertaking to repay the loan in 5 equal annual instalments commencing from two years after completion of the course he is studying or within one year of his obtaining employment, whichever is earlier.

(iv) The amount of loan should be remitted directly to the college concerned.

(v) No security is insisted upon, except in the case of payment students, where adequate security may be required by the Banks.

These guidelines are applicable for the academic year 1996-97 also. RBI has reported that so far no nationalised

banks have requested for lifting the income ceiling on the above loans.

Import Duty on Paper

3553. SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Paper Industry had represented against hikes in import duties on paper;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) Certain Associations representing paper manufacturers have requested for an increase in the basic customs duty on specified varieties of paper and paperboard. On the other hand, certain Associations representing paper users have sought reduction in duty.

(c) In the Budget for 1996-97, the Government has continued the 20% ad valorem basic customs duty on the aforesaid varieties of paper and paperboard. However, a special duty of customs at the rate of 2% ad valorem has become leviable with effect from 23rd July, 1996.

[Translation]

Outstanding Loans Against Industries

3554. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the bank loans outstanding against each of the major fifteen industrial houses of the country as on date;

(b) the details of the loans taken and refunded by them to the nationalised banks year-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken for recovery of the dues alongwith the time by which it is likely to be recovered?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) The criterion for classifying top industrial houses has not been specified in the question. The data reporting system of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) does not generate such information. RBI has however reported that under the concept of Group Approach evolved by RBI, banks/all India financial institutions report each year as on 31 March, information regarding credit facilities enjoyed by various borrowing units belonging to identified groups of borrowers (fund based limits of Rs. 5 crore and above and irregular accounts below Rs. 5 crores). As per information provided by RBI, fund based outstanding of banks/all India