

[English]

Identity Cards to Income-Tax Payers

345. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Union Government propose to issue new identity cards for the Income-tax payers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. As a part of the Comprehensive computerisation programme of the Income-Tax Department laminated Permanent Account Number Cards to all income tax payers are being issued in the three city regions of Delhi, Mumbai and Madras initially.

Meeting with Agriculturists

346. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Finance Minister has recently met a group of agriculturists and sought their suggestions on the farm sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of the suggestions accepted and likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes Sir

(b) The pre-budget meeting drew attention to a number of issues such as the need for enhanced investment, improvement in rural infrastructure, removal of restrictions on movement of agricultural products and rationalisation of duties on inputs

(c) The relevant suggestions/deliberations made in the pre-budget meeting with FM are carefully considered for the budgetary exercise.

Privatisation of Banks and F.I.s

347. SHRI S. D. N. R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to privatise some public sector banks and financial institutions,
- (b) if so, the details of such banks and financial institutions;
- (c) the reasons for taking such a decision, and
- (d) the steps taken in that direction so far?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government at present to privatise the public sector banks and financial institutions viz. Industrial Development Bank of India, Industrial Reconstruction Bank of India, Export-Import Bank of India, National Housing Bank and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Setting up of National Rural Bank

348. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any final decision for setting up of the proposed National Rural Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the proposed places where the Bank's branches are to be set up initially; and

(c) the steps taken so far towards setting up of the Bank?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). After considering a number of alternative models for restructuring Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) including National Rural Bank, it has been decided to revamp the RRBs by cleansing of their balance sheets on a 'Stand alone' basis. Accordingly, in pursuance of an announcement by the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech on 28.02.94, 49 of the 196 RRBs were taken up in the course of 1994-95 for comprehensive restructuring including cleansing of their balance sheets and infusion of free capital. Equity support has been released for another batch of 53 RRBs in 1995-96. The objective is to transform presently weak and ailing RRBs into financially viable and effective instruments of decentralised rural banking.

Widening of NH No. 5

349. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have taken up any programme of four-laning of Vijayawada-Madras National Highway No. 5, Delhi-Ajmer via Jaipur and Delhi-Bombay National Highway No. 8 in view of regular traffic congestion effecting trade and commerce movement,

(b) if so, whether the land acquisition work for four-laning has taken place and if so, the progress in this regard,

(c) the target fixed for fully widening and make these operational; and

(d) the funds allocated and utilised during 1995-96 and the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. The 4-laning work is being taken up in a phased manner. The detailed position is as under :

(1) NH-5 Vijayawada-Madras 434 Kms

(a) Chilakaluripet to Vijayawada-Km 355 to 434 in Andhra Pradesh; land acquisition completed. Work has yet to be sanctioned.

(2) NH-8 Delhi-Bombay 1514 Kms

(a) Km 0 to 36.63 in Delhi - Completed

(b) Km 36.63 to 162.5 in Haryana & Rajasthan. - Land acquisition completed and work sanctioned.

(c) Km 162.5 to 231.00 in Rajasthan. - Work in progress targeted for completion by March, 1997.

Km 231.0 to Km 248 in Rajasthan. - Completed

(d) Length of 121.41 Km in scattered reaches in Gujarat. - Completed

(e) Length of 64 235 Km in scattered reaches in Gujarat. - Land acquisition completed. Work in Progress. Last Section to be completed by December, 1997.

Employment on Compassionate Grounds in L.I.C., West Bengal

350. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of employees of Life Insurance Corporation of India, Jalpaiguri Division, West Bengal died during 1994 and 1995; and

(b) the details of the deceased whose dependants have not been provided with employment on compassionate grounds together with the reasons in each case and the time by which they are likely to get employment?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Foreign Collaboration in Maharashtra

351. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT :
SHRI DATTA MEGHE :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state the number of industries/enterprises set up/being set up with foreign collaboration in Maharashtra alongwith the details thereof, location-wise and project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : A total no. of 667 proposals involving foreign direct investment of Rs. 105467.20 million have been approved to set up industries/enterprises in the state of Maharashtra during 1.8.91 to 31.5.96.

The details of such proposals viz. name of the Indian company, name and country of foreign collaborator, equity/investment involved, item of manufacture/activity are published by the Indian Investment Centre as a supplement to the Monthly Newsletter and copies of these are regularly supplied to the Parliament Library.

Black Money

352 SHRI JAG MOHAN Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated black/unaccounted money in the country as at present;

(b) whether any study on prevalence of black money has recently been conducted by the Planning Commission or some independent academic institution or research body;

(c) if so, the details thereof

(d) whether the quantum of black money has risen steeply after liberalisation of economic reforms.

(e) if so, the details thereof, and

(f) the measures taken or proposed to be taken to check the current trends?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) No authentic Study has been made recently and hence it is not possible to estimate black/unaccounted money in the country at present. As per the study made by the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, Black money was estimated between Rs.31584 crore to Rs. 36786 crore in the year. 1983-84.

(d) and (e) In the absence of any recent authentic study, it is not possible to state whether the quantum of Black Money has risen steeply after liberalisation/economic reforms.

(f) The Government has been taking necessary legislative, fiscal and administrative measures, as deemed appropriate, from time to time, to curb the