

(b) The basic principles governing Government purchases are laid down in the General Finance Rules (GFRs). No model code of purchase has been framed which is applicable/binding on all Ministries/Department.

(c) and (e) Various Central Government Ministries/Departments may have evolved their own purchase procedures keeping in view the aforesaid provisions of GFRs. Officers of DGS&D transferred to these Ministries/Departments consequent upon decentralisation of purchases would thus have to follow the purchase procedure adopted by the concerned Ministry/Department.

Pending Appeals before Income Tax Tribunals

4291. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of appeals pending before the Income Tax Tribunals as on December 31, 1996;

(b) whether the Government are constituting more Tribunals and appointing Additional Members;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) other steps taken for expeditious disposal of pending cases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) the number of appeals pending before the Income-tax Appellate Tribunal as on 31st December, 1996 was 2,99,334.

(b) and (c) Government has recently decided to establish 15 new benches of the Tribunal at the following places :

Name of Station	No. of benches
1. Rajkot	1
2. Agra	1
3. Bangalore	2
4. Mumbai	5
5. Chandigarh	1
6. New Delhi.	2
7. Jodhpur	1
8. Panaji	1
9. Vishakhapatnam	1

(d) Does not arise.

(e) More members have been conferred single member powers for hearing appeals. Members are sent on tours to stations where either the pendency is more or the regular Benches are not functioning. Grouping of appeals involving common issues for hearing, scrutiny of cases covered by earlier judgements for quick disposal and arranging camp courts at various places are some of the other steps taken for quick disposal of pending cases.

Export of Agarbathi

4292. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total value of agarbathi exported during 1996-97;

(b) whether the Government are aware that due to non-availability of bamboo splits for agarbathi industry it is difficult to achieve the estimated export from Karnataka; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of agarbathi;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) As per data available with DGC&S, the total value of export of agarbathi during April-December, 1996 is Rs. 56.36 crores.

(b) and (c) the matter was represented before the Hon'ble Supreme Court and the Hon'ble Court in their order dated 4.3.97 have clarified that their directions dated 12.12.96 imposing a ban on felling of trees are not applicable to minor forest produce including bamboo. This is likely to improve the availability of bamboo for agarbathi industry.

Losses in Public Sector and Rural Banks

4293. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI :
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the number of rural and semi-urban branches of the public sector banks that are running into losses and how does that compare with the branches of private sector banks running into these very rural and semi-urban areas, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : The number of rural and semi-urban branches of the public sector banks and private sector banks running into losses during the last two years i.e., 1994-95 and 1995-96, as reported by Reserve Bank of India, is given below :

Year (As on 31st March)	No. of loss making branches			
	Public Sector Banks		Private Sector Banks	
	Rural	Semi Urban	Rural	Semi Urban
1994-95	6993	1756	320	142
1995-96	4601*	1120*	347	171

*Except State Bank of India.

Sebi Action Against Brokers

4294. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of brokers against whom Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has taken action during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) SEBI has taken action against 66 stock-brokers during the last 3 years. The year-wise break-up is given below :-

Year	Number of stock brokers
1994-95	19
1995-96	10
1996-97 (upto Feb., 97)	37

Besides, SEBI has issued during the year 1996-97, show cause notices to 58 stock-brokers and in some of these cases, enquiry proceedings have also been initiated.

(b) SEBI has informed that it has taken action against stock-brokers as indicated above for the following reasons :

- (i) failure of comply with the conditions subject to which the stock-brokers were granted registration; and
- (ii) contravention of the provisions of the SEBI Act, 1992, SEBI (Stock-Brokers and Sub-Brokers) Rules and Regulations, 1992, Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956, the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957 and the Rules, Bye-laws and Regulations of the respective Stock Exchanges.

Reservation of Backward classes by PSUs

4295. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any policy of the Government for implementation of reservation of Backward classes in Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any complaint has been received for non-implementation of reservation policy in some PSUs; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Based on the recommendations made by the 2nd Backward Classes Commission (Mandal Commission) and following the Supreme Court judgement thereon, suitable instructions have been issued to all public sector undertakings to provide reservation of vacancies filled through direct recruitment.

(c) and (d) The responsibility for implementing the reservation policy for OBCs rests with the Head of the Department both in the administrative Ministries and public enterprises. Complaints, if any, are looked into at appropriate levels for taking remedial measures from time to time.

Export of Sandalwood and Jasmine

4296. SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of conditions imposed on export of sandalwood oil and jasmine concentrate; and

(b) the reasons for sudden curb on exports of these items;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) Export of Sandalwood Oil is permitted subject to (i) production of Certificate of Origin from the Principal/Chief Conservator of Forests of the state concerned; (ii) No objection Certificate from the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India; and (iii) Any other condition, including a ceiling that may be imposed by the Director General of Foreign Trade. A ceiling of 5,000 Kgs. of Sandalwood Oil has been permitted for exports during the year keeping in mind the availability of Sandalwood from legal sources and the requirements of various domestic industries.