

(c) The Government have decided that counter guarantees would be available only to eight Fast Track Projects and not to the others.

Letters from MPs

3553. SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA :
SHRI RAMPAL UPADHYAY :
SHRI RAMA CHANDRA MALLICK :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the government are aware that the General Insurance Corporation of India and the New India Assurance Company Ltd. do not respond to letters received from Members of Parliament;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to punish the guilty officials and ensure instructions about dealing with letters from Members of Parliament are strictly followed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (c) Instructions were issued by the Government to Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) and its four subsidiaries, to ensure prompt disposal of communications received from Hon'ble MPs and other VIPs. The GIC and New India Assurance Co. Ltd., have reported that they are generally abiding by these orders. Specific instances of non-compliance of these or any other Government orders are taken up by the Government, as required, with concerned organisations.

Widening of Tax Net

3554. SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR :
SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE :
SHRI V.K. KHANDELWAL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the schemes relating to the widening of the tax net on the basis of economic criterion as introduced in 1997-98 budget has met with envisaged and adequate success;

(b) if so, the number of potential tax payers located under this scheme and the total revenue (Income Tax) collected under this scheme;

(c) whether the Government have received any proposals to rehash this scheme; and

(d) if so, details thereof and action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) and (b) The primary objective of the Two-by-Four economic criteria Scheme is to cast an obligation on taxpayers to file returns of income and thereby widen the tax base in twelve cities and their urban agglomeration in the country. The scheme was operational for the first time in assessment year 1997-98 and during this period a growth of 20% in the number of returns filed was recorded as against the preceding assessment year. The revenue collection attributing to this Scheme cannot be segregated from out of total collection.

(c) and (d) The Finance (No.2) Bill 1998 proposes to further expand and extend the scope of the provisions introduced in 1997 relating to widening of tax net. Two more economic criteria namely, holding of credit card and membership of expensive clubs have been proposed to be added to the existing four criteria. Also, the obligation to file return will be on fulfilling any one of the six criteria. It will thus become One-by-Six Scheme instead of the existing Two-by-Four Scheme. The Scheme is also proposed to be extended to twenty-three new cities and their urban agglomeration.

Surplus Workers in Coal Sector

3555. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :
SHRI PITAMBAR PASWAN :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of employees have become surplus in Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries;

(b) if so, the number of surplus employees as on March 31, 1998, subsidiary-wise;

(c) the number of employees out of them have taken retirement under Voluntary Retirement Scheme in each subsidiary; and

(d) the efforts made or proposed to be made by the Government for their rehabilitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) As reported by Coal India Limited there are some surplus employees in three subsidiary companies of CIL namely ECL, BCCL and CCL.

(b) In an exercise undertaken by CIL it was indicated that ECL, BCCL and CCL had 34,920 manpower surplus to their requirement as on 1.4.94. Assessment of surplus manpower is a continuous process.

(c) Out of 34,920 surplus employees, the number of employees retired after April, 1994 under VRS in these subsidiary companies is given as under :

Company	No. of Employees Retired under VRS	
	1994-95 to 1997-98	1998-99 (April & May)
ECL	6109	328
BCCL	8519	299
CCL	2426	074
	17054	701

(d) CIL's Voluntary Retirement Scheme for retiring employees, besides payment of gratuity and contributory provident fund (CPF) as per rules, provides for an ex-gratia amount equivalent to 1 and 1/2 months wages for each completed years of service or monthly wages at the time of retirement multiplied by the number of month of service left before the normal date of retirement, whichever is less.

Ex-gratia payment and other terminal dues in the form of provident fund, gratuity etc. when invested give adequate return to the employees. Besides the employees covered under the coal mines pension scheme will also be entitled to monthly pension in terms of the provisions of the scheme.

Sick Spinning Mills

3556. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

- whether some spinning mills have fallen sick in Orissa;
- if so, the details thereof, as on date;
- whether the Government propose to sanction Central assistance for revival of those spinning mills; and
- if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) As per information made available by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), as on 30.4.98 there were 5 textile mills of Orissa registered with the BIFR. In respect of 2 cases, BIFR has sanctioned Schemes, 2 cases have been declared in non-maintainable and 1 case is under winding up notice.

- There is no such proposal.
- Does not arise.

[Translation]

Ban on Recruitment

3557. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL :
SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA :
KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE :
SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- whether there is a ban on recruitment in the offices of the Central Government;
- if so, the reasons therefor;
- the number of posts particularly of Grade III and IV status lying vacant in these offices;
- the time since when these posts are lying vacant;
- the reasons for these vacancies lying vacant; and
- the time by which these are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) There is no ban on recruitment in the offices of the Central Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The estimated total number of vacant posts in the Group 'C' (NG) & 'D' (NG) was 196119 & 94163 respectively as on 31.3.97.

(d) to (f) The details are not available as the same are not centrally maintained.

[English]

Stock Exchanges

3558. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- the names and number of recognised Stock Exchanges functioning in the Country;
- the number of shares listed and volume of business done by each stock exchange during the last five years, year-wise;
- the number of share brokers and share holders in each stock exchange;
- whether any complaint against any broker and/or functioning of Stock Exchange have been received by the Government and if so, the details thereof; and
- the action taken there on so far?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (e) A statement is enclosed.