

(c) to (e) Under Chapter XIV B of the Income-tax Act, 1961, search action is followed up by making block assessments for a period of ten years to arrive at the undisclosed income. The tax is levied at a higher rate of 60 per cent of such undisclosed income. Initiation of prosecution proceedings for willfully attempting to evade tax is provided for in the Income-tax Act. The action under the law will be considered at the appropriate time after coming to a finding regarding the concealment of income.

#### Clearance of Backlog of Patent

3466. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "efforts on to enhance manpower of patent offices to clear backlog" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated April 15, 1998;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein and reaction of the Government thereto and action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard;

(c) the present status regarding the nature of reforms and legislation proposed to be brought about during the current year;

(d) the pendency, position of patent received/processed/cleared and pending as on April 30, 1998;

(e) whether there is a proposal to shift Apex Patent Office from Calcutta; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) In the absence of any significant modernisation or restructuring of the patent administration system since its establishment, over 29,000 patent applications were awaiting examination as in April, 1998. This has led to delays in grant of patents. During the period 1997-98, 1844 patents were granted.

The Government has been taking steps from time to time to modernise the system including the preparation of a plan to provide required qualified personnel, infrastructural facilities, optimisation of available resources through reorientation of functions between offices and elimination of backlog of patent applications.

#### Eleventh Finance Commission

3467. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from various States to convene a meeting of Chief

Ministers to discuss the terms of references of the Eleventh Finance Commission; and

(b) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, such proposals were received from the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, J & K, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tripura & West Bengal.

Government of India had invited suggestions from all the States regarding the Terms of Reference of the 11th Finance Commission. Almost all the States except Bihar, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim had sent their suggestions which were taken into consideration by the Government while finalising the Terms of Reference. The 11th Finance Commission has since been constituted on July 3, 1998. Both the Houses of Parliament were informed of this development on July 6, 1998 through a Statement made by the Finance Minister.

#### Export of Orange and Kinnu

3468. SHRI SHANKAR PANNU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the value of export of orange and Kinnu made from Ganganagar, Hanumangarh and Jhalawar districts of Rajasthan during the last two years, country-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to export kinnu during the current year;

(c) if so, the quantum thereof alongwith the countries to which the export is proposed to be made;

(d) whether the Government propose to establish a waxing plant in Ganganagar for export of Kinnu; and

(e) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) Data on State-wise/district-wise exports of these products is not maintained. However, the exports of Oranges, mandarins and other citrus fruits during 1995-96 and 1996-97 for which detailed figures are available are as follows :

(Qty: Mts;		Value : Rs. Lakhs.)
Year	Qty	Value
1995-96	18367	1426
1996-97	24608	1887

These fruits are exported mainly to Bangladesh, UAE, Malaysia, U.K., Mauritius, Singapore, USA, Netherlands, etc.

(b) and (c) Government is not directly involved in the export of these fruits. However, it encourages exports of

fruits including oranges and Kinnu by providing various support measures.

(d) and (e) Proposals for establishment of waxing plant in Ganganagar will be considered when received.

#### Incentives to NRIs

3469. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :  
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :  
SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN :  
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the total investment expected to be made during 1998 by the Non-Resident Indians in the country, particularly in Gujarat;

(b) the salient features of the incentives being given to NRIs for investment in the country;

(c) whether the incentives/concessions given to NRIs in the past produced good result; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith reaction of the NRIs thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) During the calendar year 1998, upto 30.4.98, NRI investment worth about Rs. 29655.90 lakhs, including NRI investment of about Rs. 260.60 Lakhs for Gujarat, has been approved by the Government. The actual investment to be made during 1998 would, however, depend on the response of NRIs to the investment opportunities.

(b) to (d) Government constantly reviews the policy relating to NRI investments to make it competitive and provide adequate incentives and facilities to NRIs. With this end in view, the Government has taken a number of steps to boost NRI investment. In certain selected sectors, 100% NRI equity is permissible with full repatriation benefits.

As a result of these measures, the investment from NRIs/OCBs has increased from about Rs. 1970.00 lakhs in 1991 to about Rs. 181717.90 lakhs in 1997.

[Translation]

#### Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana

3470. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the number of applications of loan under Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana are pending in District Industry Centre, Kanpur;

(b) if so, the reasons for not providing loans to these unemployed youths so far;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government for proper implementation of the above scheme?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) Sponsoring of applications to banks after screening by the Task Forces is an ongoing activity of the District Industry Centres under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana. Out of 1486 applications received in District Industry Centres Kanpur (both Nagar & Dehat), 1030 fresh applications have been screened during the current year. 456 applications are pending with District Industry Centre Kanpur (Nagar) for screening as on 30.6.98, as reported by the State Government.

(b) The pending applications are scheduled to be screened by the end of July, 1998 for sponsoring to the banks. Banks shall thereafter undertake their own scrutiny.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) The scheme is monitored at the district, State and the Central Government levels. The State Governments has reported that the implementation of the scheme in Kanpur is proceeding as per schedule.

[English]

#### Import of Soyabean

3471. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to import soyabean;

(b) if so, the names of countries from which it is likely to be imported; and

(c) the quantity proposed to be imported and the import price of each country, separately?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) to (c) The Government have decided to allow the import of one million tonnes of soyabean by oilmeal exporting units either in split form or the beans are to be split at the port of entry under supervision of Plant Quarantine Authorities. The countries from which the soyabean would be imported would depend upon availability and prices prevailing in the international markets.

[Translation]

#### Export of Minerals

3472. SHRIMATI SURYA KANTA PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :