

May, 1997 by which the banks/financial institutions may write off the outstanding loans and interest of all borrowers, in the tourism, transport, small scale industry and trade sector in the State of Jammu & Kashmir whose original borrowings were less than or upto Rs. 50,000/- in each case.

(b) to (d) This scheme does not cover loans provided to Agricultural Sector. Further, inclusion of Agricultural Loans has not been agreed to as any "across the board" waiver of such loans would adversely affect the recovery climate and capacity of rural credit institutions to recycle funds.

(e) Does not arise.

Cases Against I.T. Evaders

2468. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases against income-tax evaders have been filed till date;

(b) the number of persons found guilty and punished in this regard;

(c) whether the new plan proposed to be formulated by the Government to bring all tax evaders into the direct I.T.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE & INSURANCE): (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARATHANAN) : (a) and (b) The number of prosecutions launched u/s 276C(1) of the I.T. Act, 1961 for concealment of income were 210 in 1995-96, 291 in 1996-97 and 681 in 1997-98. The number of convictions obtained in respect of prosecutions u/s 276C were 10 in 1995-96, 7 in 1996-97 and 4 in 1997-98.

(c) and (d) Section 139(1) of the IT Act, 1961 was amended with effect from 1.4.97 to provide that a person, who at any time during the previous year fulfils any two of the following conditions, namely;

- (1) is in occupation of immovable property exceeding specified limits.
- (2) is the owner or the lessee of a motor vehicle.
- (3) is a subscriber to a telephone.
- (4) has incurred expenditure on travel to any foreign country for himself or any other person shall furnish a return of income.

In the Finance (No.2) Bill, 1998 the above scheme is proposed to be extended to cover credit card holdings and

membership of a club having entrance fee of more than Rs. 25,000. Any person who fulfils any one of the above six conditions shall be liable to file a return of income. These new provisions are expected to substantially enhance the number of tax-payers.

Use of Coal Royalty

2469. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of COAL be please to state:

(a) whether there are persistent demand that part of coal royalty given to State Governments should be spent on the development of the concerned affected districts;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Maharashtra has not spent even a single penny on the development of Chandrapur and Nagpur Districts where coal mines exist; and

(c) if so, the steps the Union Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) to (c) Royalty on coal is a source of revenue for the State Government. The proceeds from royalty is credited to the Consolidated Fund of the State Government and any appropriation from such funds can be authorised by the State Legislature. Therefore any amount to be spent by the State Government from the proceeds of royalty on coal in the affected area depends on the decision of the State Government and the State Legislature. The Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 provides for payment of royalty by the lessee to the lessor State Government but does not prescribe the manner of utilisation of the royalty proceeds. The Central Government, therefore, have no authority to intervene in this matter.

Tax Exemptions to VAC Trust

2470. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a trust by name Venkatachalapathi Anna Chatram (VAC) Trust of Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu enjoys tax exemptions under the category of public trusts devoted to religious charitable work;

(b) if so, the details of the Trust and the names of trustees;

(c) whether the Trust has filed income tax returns to qualify for the tax exemption; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE & INSURANCE): (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARATHANAN) : (a) The trust had