

1	2	3	4
11.	Assistance for Brochure on Royal Orient Express	1994-95	5.00
12.	Tarnetar Festival	1994-95	1.69
13.	Assistance for Kutch Festival	1995-96	3.52
14.	Assistance for production of publicity material	1995-96	4.46
15.	Floodlighting of Dwarkadheesh Temple at Dwarka	1996-97	8.21
16.	Refurbishment of monument, Stepwell at Adalaj	1996-97	8.32
17.	Public conveniences at Ambaji	1996-97	8.78
18.	Floodlighting of Lakhota Palace, Jamnagar	1996-97	8.76
19.	Tourist Reception Centre at Junagadh	1996-97	12.18
20.	Tourist Reception Centre at Porbandar	1996-97	12.18
21.	Public conveniences at Upakot, Junagadh	1996-97	8.78
22.	Publicity support	1996-97	10.00
23.	Navratri festival	1996-97	4.00
24.	Somnath festival	1996-97	0.50
25.	Tarnetar festival	1996-97	0.50

Performance of PSUs

2769. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of major and medium scale public sector units in each State alongwith the capital investment and number of employees working therein;

(b) the number of units running in profit or loss during each of the last three years;

(c) whether about four years back the then Industries Minister during his visit to Jammu had promised to establish some medium scale industrial units in public sector in Jammu;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) A list of Central PSUs in States/Union

Territories as per their registered offices as on 31.3.97 is given in Appendix III (pages S-230 to S-236) of Volume-I of the Public Enterprises Survey, 1996-97 which has been laid in Parliament on 8.6.98. The information regarding state-wise capital investment in terms of Gross Block and the number of employees is given in Table 1.25 (page 34) of Volume-I of the Public Enterprises Survey, 1996-97.

(b) The number of PSUs running in profit or loss during each of the last three years are given below :

No. of PSUs running in	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
(i) Profit	130	132	129
(ii) Loss	109	102	104
(iii) No profit or loss	2	5	3
Total No. of operating PSUs	241	239	236

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Licence for Crackers

2770. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Controller of Explosives have issued permanent wholesale licences to sell crackers throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the terms and conditions of the licences including the licensed capacity to store crackers etc;

(c) whether the manufacturers of crackers despatch more quantity than licensed capacity of the dealers and whether the Controller of Explosives enquired into the matter;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the number of inspections carried out by the Controller of Explosives in the country during the last three years and the number of dealers found violating the terms of licence; and

(f) action proposed to be taken by the Government against the manufacturers and dealers who violate the terms and conditions of the licence?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) and (b) Controller of Explosives of the Department of Explosives is empowered to issue licences under the Explosives Rules, 1983, for possession, sale and manufacture of fireworks upto 1000 kgs. of Class 7, Division 2, Sub-division 1, and 100 kgs. of Class 7, Division 2, Sub-division 2 throughout the country.

A total number of 2711 licences have been granted by the Department. These licences are issued in form No. 24 where the licensed capacity and other terms and conditions under which the licence is issued, are stated.

(c) and (d) The transport of fireworks is exempted from transport licence under Rule 32 (v) of the Explosives Rules, 1983. As such, the fireworks' manufacturers do not submit their reports to the Explosives Department regarding the quantities despatched. However, Rule 127 of the Explosives Rules, 1983 takes care of the stock of fireworks, stored in excess of the licensed quantity.

(e) and (f) During the last 3 years, the number of inspections carried out by the Department were 550 in 1994-95, 587 in 1995-96 and 833 in 1996-97. Section 6E(3) of the Explosives Act, 1884 and Rule 167 of the Explosives Rules, 1983, empowers the Licensing Authority to suspend the licence for violations, if any.

I.T. Limit

2771. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :
PROF. P.J. KURIEN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is resentment among the salaried class income tax payers over the fixation of income tax limit from Rs. 40,000 to Rs. 50,000;

(b) whether the cost of maintaining a family is taken into account while fixing the rate of income tax on the salaried class income tax payers;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have received requests to raise the limit upto Rs. 1,00,000 instead of Rs. 50,000;

(e) if so, whether the Government are further considering to lowering the rates of income tax for the salaried class tax payers; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes. Due regard is paid to the hardships being faced by salaried income-tax payers in the lower-income groups.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) A raise in the standard deduction from Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 25,000 is proposed for those having salary income upto Rs. 1 lac income. After availing of standard deduction

and rebate on tax-savings those having income upto Rs. 1 lac will have to pay no tax or nominal tax.

Any lowering of tax rates only for the salaried class is neither equitable nor practicable. The tax-rates are already low. Further lowering of tax-rates is likely to erode the tax-base and affect adversely revenue mobilisation efforts.

Cotton Ginning

2772. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :
SHRI VITHAL TUPE :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether facilities for cotton ginning are not upto the mark and are inadequate;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide better ginning facilities?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) While the facilities for cotton ginning are adequate in terms of the installed capacity, they lack in terms of quality parameters, mainly on account of obsolete machinery, poor maintenance and improper handling practices, etc.

(c) The Cotton Corporation of India Ltd., (CCI) has been implementing an Action Plan to encourage modernisation and adoption of improved practices in the existing ginning and pressing units, and offers a package of financial incentives for this purpose. Modernisation of cotton ginning and pressing units is also one of the objectives of the proposed Technology Mission on Cotton Development.

Maruti Udyog

2773. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :
SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI :
SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH :
SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Maruti Udyog Limited was taken into confidence and opinion of Attorney General was sought before reaching a settlement between the Government and the Suzuki Motor Corporation;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the reasons for over-ruling the decision of the previous Government in the matter of appointment of Chairman and Managing Director of MUL by turn;

(d) whether the Government propose to further dilute its stake in the joint venture by 10%;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government to prevent the joint venture; and