

(d) A final view on the proposal of Hindustan Cables Limited for financial restructuring and other measures, is yet to be taken by the Government.

Setting up Tourism Institute in J & K

1480. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up Tourism Institute in Jammu & Kashmir to impart education and training on tourism related aspects;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up such institute in the State in the near future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) There is no such proposal at present. This is mainly due to constraint resources.

Housing Loan

1481. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many of the private and public sector banks in Delhi are not releasing house building loans to their employees who are members of the cooperative group housing societies;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of the rules framed, if any, by the public and private sector banks on the subject; and

(c) the action the Government propose to take to ensure that the banks do not refuse the house building loans to their employees who are members of the cooperative group housing societies?

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) No such complaint regarding public sector banks appears to have been brought to the notice of the Government in the recent past.

(b) and (c) As far as public sector banks are concerned, no such restriction exists. Ministry of Finance is not administratively concerned with such schemes in private sector banks.

Bank Officers Demand Regarding Wage Settlement

1482. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bank Officers Association have put forth the demand for continuation of the present system of Industry-wise wage settlement;

(b) if so, the details their demands;

(c) the reaction of Indian Bank's Association (IBA) to the demand;

(d) whether IBA have laid down any guidelines to be followed by various Banks in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

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) Indian Bank's Association (IBA) have reported that the Bank Officers' Associations have made a request for continuation of the present system of wage revision.

(b) As reported by IBA, the major demands raised by the Officers' Association in Charter of Demands submitted to the Indian Banks, Association include, inter alia, compression of the existing seven scales of Officers into three, merger of DA into Basic Pay, increase in minimum basic pay and maximum basic pay, 100% DA neutralisation at all stages of pay; provision of free furnished quarters to the Officers and increase in HRA, CCA and various other allowances etc.

(c) IBA have reported that during the discussions with the Officers Associations it was clarified that a realistic approach would be needed on the part of both IBA and officers and that at industry level only basic pay and DA will be discussed. The associations were also informed by IBA that all banks may not be covered by present discussions as some banks may drop out

(d) and (e) IBA has further reported that they have not laid down any guidelines to be followed by various banks in this regard.

(f) It is for IBA and the associations to conclude the discussions and no time limit can be indicated.

Violation of Patent Act

1483. SHRI CHANDU LAL AJMEERA :

SHRI K.P. NAIDU :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received representations from scientists against the International Patent Act in India to file criminal charges against piracy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. There is no International Patents Act. Patents are granted by respective governments under their patents laws. Violation of patent rights is also to be challenged under those laws by the affected parties.

Leakage of Price Sensitive Information

1484. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has brought to the notice of the Government that some vital price sensitive information leaked to brokers by the officials of stock exchanges thereby creating menace and confusion in money market in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to curb the menace and prevent leakage in stock exchanges in future?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) According to SEBI the allegations are of a general nature and hence specific details are not available.

(c) SEBI have informed that they have discussed this matter with the Stock exchanges. They have taken the following steps to minimise the possibilities of such leakages of information:

(i) Stock exchanges have been advised to insulate their surveillance departments and make systemic changes to restrict the access to price sensitive information only to certain identified officials.

(ii) A group comprising of elected representatives of major stock exchanges has been set up to evolve a draft code of ethical

conduct for the Directors and key functionaries of stock exchanges, which would impose self restraint on them in misusing such information.

[Translation]

Decline in Production of Coffee

1485. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of coffee is declining continuously in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to adopt bio-technology in order to increase the production of coffee; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Coffee Board has set up a full fledged bio-technology laboratory equipped with the latest instruments and highly qualified scientists specialised in bio-technology, at Mysore (Karnataka). They undertake research studies on clonal multiplication through micropropagation, production of Haploids and Somaclonal variants for breeding purposes, production of interspecific hybrids through Embryo culture and utilisation of Protoplast culture and Somatic hybridisation technique for crossing distantly related species to achieve agronomic traits of the hybrids. These Research studies aim to develop coffee varieties of higher productivity and better quality. A comprehensive bio-technological scheme has also been in operation in the Coffee Board since Eighth Plan.

[English]

Investment in Public and Private Sector

1486. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of investment made in the Public and Private sectors during each of the last three years State-wise;

(b) whether there is any reluctance on the part of the investors to make investment in the backward States; and

(c) if so, the remedial measures taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?