

(c) LIC has a system of regular follow up of pending claim cases by the Managers (Claims) and Marketing Managers at the Divisional Offices and by Regional Managers (Mktg) at the Zonal Offices. The follow up is through letters to the claimants at periodic intervals as also through personal contacts wherever necessary through LIC's Branch Officials with a view to assisting the claimants for compliance of claim requirements.

CBDT Turns Attention to "Economic Criteria"

1620. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether after the success of Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme, the Central Board of Direct Taxes has turned its attention towards making economic criteria scheme a paying venture;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the scheme which ended on February 28, aimed at enrolling 30 lakhs new tax payers during the last financial year;

(d) whether the scheme was targetted for 12 major cities in the country in an effort to bring on the rolls of income-tax department new tax assesseees and broaden the tax base; and

(e) If so, to what extent the scheme has been successful?

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) Yes, Sir. The primary objective of the Economic Criteria Scheme is to cast an obligation on tax payers to file returns of income and thereby widen the tax base. The underlying presumption of the scheme is that, any-body fulfilling the prescribed economic criteria should be having either taxable income or should be a potential tax payer. The scheme is expected not only to increase the number of tax payers but also bring in additional revenue.

(c) to (e) The object of the economic criteria scheme which aimed at enrolling new and potential tax payers, was to widen the tax base. The scheme was first introduced in 12 major cities and their urban agglomerations. The first year for which return was to be filed under this scheme was assessment year 1997-98 and the last date for this year was 28th of February, 1998. In the year a growth of approximately

20% was recorded in the number of returns filed as against the earlier year.

Export Processing Zones

1621. SHRIMTI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of export processing zones set up in the country so far;

(b) the location of those export processing zones; State-wise

(c) whether the Government propose to set up some export processing zones (EPZ) during the Ninth Plan; and

(d) if so, the States where these EPZs are proposed to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAM KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) The seven Export Processing Zones (EPZs) functioning in the country are located at Kandla (Gujarat), Mumbai (Maharashtra), Noida (Uttar Pradesh), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Cochin (Kerala), Falta (West Bengal) and Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh).

(c) and (d) Keeping in view the availability of funds and the need to optimise infrastructural facilities in the existing Export Processing Zones, there is no proposal at present for the Central Government to set up new zones in the country. However, Export Processing Zones can now be established by State Governments or in joint/private sector.

Re-opening of Closed Coal Mines

1622. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to reopen the closed mines of Coal India Ltd.;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the names of the coal mines closed in Coal India Limited since nationalisation till March 31, 1998?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Coal India Limited (CIL) decides on closure and opening of mines on techno-economic considerations. CIL has no proposal at present to re-open the closed mines which were closed due to exhaustion of mineable reserves, difficult geo-mining conditions, techno-economic unviability and safety considerations. Several coal mines of CIL which were