

All these suggestions are processed and appropriate decisions are taken thereon after due consultations.

Workman Employees Directors of Banks

5502. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies of Workman Employee Directors in various banks; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to appoint Workman Employee Director against such vacancies?

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) The position of Workman Employee Director is vacant in 5 public sector banks. Action has already been initiated to fill up these vacancies.

Rupees Exchange Rate

5503. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether ADB in its annual report for 1997-98 suggested that some corrections are needed in the exchange rate of Rupee;

(b) If so, the details of suggestions; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) ADB in its Annual Report for 1997 indicated as follows:

"Apart from efforts to give a boost to economic growth, particularly industry growth, economic management in 1997 was dominated by concerns over the exchange rate and, at least by the latter part of the year, by efforts to limit contagion from the Asian Financial crisis. Monetary policy was eased further in April and October 97 to encourage credit offtake and boost industry growth. However, in November, the central bank tightened monetary policy in an effort to ease pressure on the rupee. Other than the exchange rate, the adverse impact of the crisis on the economy has been limited. Given the massive devaluation that have occurred in Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, and Thailand and in order to maintain external competitiveness, some correction is possibly needed in the rupee's exchange rate."

(c) The exchange rate of the rupee in India is market determined. The RBI buys and sells foreign exchange in the foreign exchange market from time to time and suitable monetary policy measures are instituted, as and when necessary, to counter speculative pressures on the exchange rate and to ensure orderly foreign exchange market conditions.

Tourist Places of Manipur

5504. KUMARI KIM GANGTE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have any plan under consideration to increase tourist facilities in the tourist important areas of Manipur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government is considering to remove the prevailing Restricted Area Permit system to boost Tourism in Manipur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the Task Force on North East constituted by the Ministry of Tourism has identified a number of tourist places in Manipur for development of tourism infrastructure. Accordingly, during 97-98 four projects amounting to Rs. 186.11 lakhs were sanctioned to increase tourist facilities in the State.

(c) In order to give boost to tourism, the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India has recently opened up certain areas for tourists in the State of Manipur.

Special Additional Customs Duty

5505. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the Revenue realised from Wind Energy Sector by way of customs duty during 1996-97 and 1997-98; and

(b) the envisaged collection by way of customs duty including newly introduced Special Additional Customs Duty for 1998-99?

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) The import data is not maintained sector-wise and, therefore, the requisite information is not readily available. The information, however, is being collected.

[*Translation*]

Closure of Private Limited Companies

5506. SHRI SADASHIV RAO D. MANDLIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of private limited companies in regard to which closure orders have been issued by the Bureau of Industrial Finance and Reconstruction (BIFR) during the last five years; and

(b) the number of companies which have filed petitions in the court against this order?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE