

**Statement****Government's Stake in IFCI***Ways & means advances given by Government of India*

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	State	Amount of Ways and Means advance released	Date of Release
1.	Andhra Pradesh	388.00	1.7.98
2.	Himachal Pradesh	100.00	28.5.98
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	80.00	7.4.98
4.	Manipur	65.00	5.5.98
		—	
5.	Mizoram	27.50	29.4.98
		34.50	26.6.98
6.	Nagaland	170.00	14.4.98
7.	Rajasthan	104.00	20.4.98
8.	Punjab	76.00	16.7.98
9.	Sikkim	20.00	22.4.98

**Free Import Licence to Multi-national Tea Companies**

\*552. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- the number and details of foreign multinational tea companies given free import licences;
- the impact of this on the indigenous tea companies; and
- the steps taken by the Government to save the domestic tea industry?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (c) Tea is in the Restricted List of imports, and it is not permitted to be imported except against a licence. However, import of all items in the negative list is allowed against Duty Free Licences if such import is necessary for export production. In the same manner, import of tea has been allowed duty free for the purpose of blending and re-export, that is, in value added form, either through ECU/EPZ units or under Duty Exemption Scheme, subject to the exporter offering a minimum value addition for the export product.

2. During the Period 1997-98, 7 Duty Free Licences for a CIF value of Rs. 13.91 crores with an export obligation of Rs. 35.22 crores and during the period 1998-99 (April-till date), 7 Duty Free Licences for a CIF value of Rs. 21.68 crores with an export obligation of Rs. 56.32 crores in the form of blended tea in consumer packs have been issued in favour of M/s. Lipton India Exports Limited, Calcutta.

3. Since import of tea has been allowed for export production, it will not have any adverse impact on the indigenous tea Companies.

\*553. SHRI JOGENDRA KAWADE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the stake of Government organisations in the Industrial Finance Corporation of India Limited has gone below 48 per cent instead of Government's commitment to maintain 51 per cent holding in IFCI; and

(b) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to retain the control on IFCI?

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 shareholding of the Government and Reserve Bank of India owned/controlled organisations such as Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), nationalised banks, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC), subsidiaries of GIC, State Bank of India (SBI) and subsidiaries of SBI in the erstwhile Industrial Finance Corporation of India was about 86%, as on 30.06.1993. As on 31.3.1998, these organisations had a holding of 51.69% in the Industrial Finance Corporation of India Limited, a company constituted under the Companies Act, 1956.

*[Translation]***Use of Hindi**

\*554. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindi Officers are not being promoted in banks and vacant posts of Hindi Officers are also not being filled;

(b) the names of the banks which are not following the order of the Reserve Bank of India in this regard and the action being taken by the Government in this direction;

(c) whether the modern equipments such as computer etc., in the Devnagri script are not being used since entries in the files are made in Roman/English; and

(d) if so, the time by which the remedial measures are proposed to be taken in this regard?

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) to (d) Public sector banks have framed their own promotion policies, based on guidelines issued by the Government from time to time, for promotion of their officers, including specialists, viz. Hindi officers, Law Officers etc. The banks take necessary steps to fill up any vacancy that may arise, either by promotion or by direct recruitment, as applicable. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently advised the public sector banks to comply with the observation of the Committee of Parliament on Official