

and also to encourage private capital flows. To this end, the Government is pursuing its stated policies of encouraging inflows of foreign direct investment, investment from NRIs and from FII's while ensuring that our domestic economic situation is strong.

[Translation]

Export to Eastern European Market

5583. SHRI SADASHIV RAO D. MANDLIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India have not been able to increase its export to the required extent in Eastern European market which has immense potential;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the areas or items in which India can increase its export in Eastern European Market;
- (d) whether the Government are contemplating to formulate any long term policy for boosting the export;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) There has been an increase of 3.72% in 1997-98 as compared to 1996-97. The total export to East European Countries was US \$ 194.20 million in 1997-98 and US\$ 187.24 million in 1996-97.

(b) Some of the reasons for this marginal growth include, inter alia, collapse of a well-established trade organisation with the shift in break-bulk from bulk trading, initial periods of economic and financial instability in these countries resulting in liquidity constraints, certain shifts in terms of pattern and orientation of bilateral trade etc.

(c) There is scope for augmentation of trade in commodities like cotton yarn fabrics made-ups, tea, RMG cotton including accessories, coffee, drugs, pharmaceuticals and fine chemicals, handicrafts etc. and diversification in items like software, gems and jewellery automobile accessories etc.

(d) to (f) Government has already undertaken certain proactive initiatives/policies to further augment exports; which include, inter alia;

- (i) Encouragement to direct business level contacts, for example, through trade fairs, exhibitions, exchange of delegation, joint business councils, etc.;
- (ii) Promotion of Joint Ventures and other forms of economic cooperation;
- (iii) Encouraging counter-trade and its variants;
- (iv) Setting up of Joint Commissions, Joint Committees and holding of these meetings;
- (v) Providing legal framework for economic cooperation;

- (vi) Encouragement of better quality control;
- (vii) Promotion of consignment exports and warehousing facilities;
- (viii) Encouragement of exchange of commercial visits;
- (ix) Encourage to diversifying commodities in the export baskets for items like electronics and software, gems and jewellery, marine products etc.

[English]

Director of Investigation, I.T.

5584. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the units working under the Director of Investigation (I.T.) have asked for furnishing information in respect of tax matters u/s 131 and 132 of I.T.A, 1961, during 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98; and
- (b) if so, the number of such cases identified in UP, Delhi and Bombay, separately year-wise?

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) Search and Seizure operations are authorised under section 132 of the Income Tax Act, 1961. Information is not statutorily asked to be furnished under Section 132 of the Act. Notices under section 131(1A) of the Act have been issued by the units working under the Directors of Income Tax (Investigation) holding jurisdiction over Delhi, Mumbai and U.P. during 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 in order to verify the genuineness of certain information and, or, to elicit information for the purpose of carrying out pre-search investigations. Since these notices have been issued in connection with matters of investigation from different files which are numerous, it is not possible to furnish the number of cases in which such notices have been issued for the above mentioned years.

[Translation]

Setting up of Inquiry Committee

5585. PROF. RITA VERMA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the committees set-up to inquire into the accidents occurred in the coal industry after the nationalisation of coal industry, as on date;
- (b) the recommendations of these committees;
- (c) whether the recommendations of said committees have been implemented;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the number of committees at the level of Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) out of these inquiry committees?