

Staff cars in Ministries

5607. SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of staff cars under the Central Ministries, Ministry-wise;
- (b) the number out of them placed at the disposal of Ministers and their staff with details;
- (c) the expenditure incurred on POL, etc. during the last two years, year-wise;
- (d) whether any limit has been fixed by the Government on the consumption of POL; and
- (e) if so, the achievements in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (e) The information is not centrally maintained; it will have to be collected from all the Ministries/Departments and their attached/subordinate offices spread all over the country. The efforts required in collection of this data may not be commensurate with the time and labour involved and the results likely to be achieved. Restrictions have already been imposed in regard to purchase of staff cars and consumption of POL.

Orissa Cotton Mills

5608. SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Orissa Cotton Mills, located at Bhagalpur, District Cuttack is being run on conversion basis;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of mills under NTC in the country are being run on conversion basis and the amount earned as conversion cost and the amount provided by the Government and private institutions for these mills monthly?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) Orissa Cotton Mills, a unit of NTC (WBAB & O) Ltd., has been doing job conversion work since Dec., 1997. In 1997-98 the mills did job conversion work worth Rs. 1.35 crores (provisional).

(c) As per available information during May, 1998, as many as 56 NTC mills are running on job conversion basis. The total gross average monthly earning from job work during 1997-98 amounts to Rs. 9.29 crores (provisional). The Government is providing approximately Rs. 16 crores per month towards shortfall in wages and salaries for these 56 mills.

[*Translation*]

Rajiv Gandhi Foundation

5609. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any kind of economic assistance was

provided to Rajiv Gandhi Foundation by the Government during the last three years;

- (b) if so, the details thereof and whether any tax concession was given to the said foundation; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

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) Planning Commission has released following grants to Rajiv Gandhi Foundation during the last three years for the project on National and Regional workshops for Promotion of Panchayati Raj :

Years	Rupees
1995-96	1,77,000
1996-97	9,47,000
1997-98	Nil

(b) and (c) Besides, exemption u/s 10(23C) (iv) of the Income-tax Act has been granted to the Foundation for the assessment years 1995-96 to 1997-98.

[*English*]

Garment Export

5610. SHRI SHANTILAL PURSHOTTAMDAS PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether garment exporters are circumventing the quota system by exporting goods to a third country and then relabelling them for export to other countries;
- (b) if so, the number of such cases have come to the notice of Government; and
- (c) the details of the action taken against such firms?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (c) No complaints have been received regarding any garment exporters circumventing the quota system by exporting goods to a third country and then selling them for export to other countries.

Income Tax Building at Jhandewalan

5611. SHRI VIJAY SINGH SOY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Income-Tax Department has hired 3 storeyed building at Jhandewalan at a rent of Rs. 25 lakh per month;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith main features of the agreement;
- (c) whether the building hired is unauthorised and unsuitable for the purpose;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the clearance has been taken from Delhi Fire Service for the said building and for its conversion from cold storage to commercial complex;

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

(g) the action 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) and (b) Yes, Sir. The ground floor and the second floor of the building at E-2 ARA Extension, Jhandewalan, New Delhi, have been rented by the Income-tax Department since 1991. The total covered area of these floors is 67,187 sq. ft. The rent currently being paid for these two floors is Rs. 26,28,662.00 per month. In terms of the lease agreement made with the landlord, he is required to pay all rates and taxes, etc., levied on the building by the local authorities, and, also incur all expenditure required for necessary repairs.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) The fire clearance certificate is issued by the Delhi Fire Service only in the case of buildings which are more than 15 (Fifteen) meters high. The aforesaid building at Jhandewalan does not fall in this category.

(f) and (g) Do not arise in view of (e) above.

Assets officials of Income Tax and

Customs Department

5612. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that many officials in the Income Tax and Customs Departments are in possession of properties and assets disproportionate to their known source of income;

(b) if so, the number of officials of these departments whose premises were raided during each of last three years; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against the erring officials?

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 (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Debt GDP Ratio

5613. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

The debt-GDP ratio, debt service ratio during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): The external debt-GDP and debt-service ratio (calculated using cash payments approach) for the period 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 are as follows:

Year	Debt-GDP ratio (%)	Debt-service ratio (%)
1994-95	32.3	25.6
1995-96	28.2	24.8
1996-97	25.9	22.6

Face of Reforms

5614. SHRI K.L. SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the India Economic Summit held in December, 1997, a large number of foreign investors expressed their resentment at the pace of reforms carried out in the country;

(b) if so, the other specific points raised at the Summit and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) The World Economic Forum organised an India Economic Summit in New Delhi in the month of December, 1997. According to some of the speakers the pace of economic reform was extremely slow and India was merely catching up with reforms taking place elsewhere. It was further stated that factors such as political uncertainty, lack of cohesive will, delay in decision making process etc. were also affecting the growth process.

(c) The Union Budget 1998-99 has announced various reforms in agriculture, industry, infrastructure, public sector and capital markets to induce investment and to impart dynamism to the overall growth process.

Cases Filed by CBI Against Former Union Ministers

5615. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI has filled any cases against any of the former Union Ministers and former Chief Ministers for income tax violation during the past three years;

(b) if so, the number of such cases pending so far; and

(c) the number of such cases which have been disposed of so far?

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 (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.