

(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 filed 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.