

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) Presently ITDC has no hotel in Madras city.

(b) and (c). The possibility of setting up of a new accommodation unit at Madras is being considered in consultation with the State Government. At this stage it is not feasible to indicate any time frame on the subject.

#### Central Excise duty for Cigarettes

5782. SHRI TARIF SINGH:  
SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAM DAS  
PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the study group appointed by Government to study a suitable pattern of Central Excise Duty for cigarettes and other items submitted its report in August, 1988:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the recommendations have been implemented; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (c). Two study groups were constituted out of the members of the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Finance to suggest measures for rationalisation and simplification of tax laws, both direct and indirect. The group on indirect taxes submitted its report to the Consultative Committee on the 1st August, 1988. The group, in one of its recommendations, recommended a combination of specific-cum-ad valorem duties rather than purely specific duties. The recommendations was a general one and was not confined to cigarettes alone. The group placed its report before the Consultative Committee and the

Committee recommended that specific rates of duties should be preferred over the ad valorem rates and that these rates should be reviewed periodically. The Committee was informed that the suggestion had been noted and that, in fact, review of specific rates of duties had been carried out in the budget 1989-90.

[Translation]

#### Setting up of a Doordarshan Relay Centre in Ashapuri

5783. PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a Doordarshan Relay Centre in Ashapuri, district Kangra (Himachal Pradesh);

(b) if so, the progress made in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) and (b). No, Sir. At present, there is no proposal to set up a TV transmitter at Ashapuri.

(c) Besides the low power TV transmitter functioning at Dharamshala, parts of Kangra district, including Ashapuri, receive TV service from the high power TV transmitters at Kasauli and Jalandhar. Provision of TV service to uncovered areas of the district depends upon availability of resources for the future plans of TV expansion.

#### G.S.I.'s Survey in Mandla (Madhya Pradesh)

5784. SHRI MOHAN LAL JHIKRAM: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Geological Survey of India has conducted a survey for finding mineral deposits in Mandla district of Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A reserve of 26 million tonnes of bauxite ore has been estimated by G.S.I. in Mandla District. The reserves have been proved in Daikibanda Pahar, Nagrakor Pahar, Chouradadar, Dadargaon, Khamera, Kapripani and Silpuri Dadar Blocks in Mandla District.

Two marble bands have also been demarcated.

#### **Representation of SCs/STs in Board of Directors of Nationalised Banks**

5785. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether representatives of the recognised Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes employees/officers associations have been given representation on the Board of Directors of nationalised banks;

(b) if so, the names of those banks where due representations have been given to SC/ST associations; and

(c) if not, whether some special arrangements are proposed to be made to include them in future?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (c). Appointment of workman employee director and non-workman employee director on the Boards of nationalised banks is to be made

by the Central Government in consultation with Reserve Bank of India in accordance with the procedure and criteria prescribed in the Nationalised Banks (Management and Miscellaneous Provisions) Schemes, 1970 and 1980. The Schemes do not provide for giving specific representation to the recognised Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Employees/Officers Association on the boards of the nationalised banks.

[English]

#### **Payment of Motor Claims**

5786. SHRIMATI USHA SINHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the average time taken in the Divisional Office of the Oriental Insurance Company Limited at Muzaffarpur, Bihar to pay claims pertaining to motor and third party losses;

(b) the number of claims lodged in the above office during last two years;

(c) the number of pending claims in the above office since one, two and three years, separately; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken against the officials, if any, responsible for delay in payment of claims?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) Efforts are made by the Muzaffarpur Divisional Office of the Company to process and finalise the claims in the shortest possible time after completion of all formalities by the insured/claimant. Third Party Losses are attended to by the Company immediately after getting Court's Orders.

(b) The number of claims lodged with Muzaffarpur Divisional office of the Company during the last two years are as under:—