

(c) the number of criminal cases for which trial has been completed and decision to be taken before the expiry of nine years after the occurrence of the alleged offence?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Sale of Confiscated Consumer Goods by Customs Retail Shops in Delhi

8408. SHRI RAM SAGAR (Saidpur): Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the confiscated consumer goods are sold to persons recommended by the high officials and not on the basis of first come first serve basis;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether a number of letters were received by the Collector of Customs, Delhi, in regard to the functioning of the Customs Retail Shop; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b). Bulk sale of seized/confiscated consumer goods is made approved Co-operative Societies and to State Civil Supplies Corporations/State Co-operative Federations for further sale to bonafide consumers through Co-operative Societies, Super Bazaars, Sahakari Bhandars etc. Such goods are also offered for sale to Military/Police/Para-Military canteens. A small quantity of such consumer goods are also sold in retail through Customs Retail Shops to bonafide consumers on 'First come first served' basis.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. There were complaints that the Customs Retail Shop was not selling goods on 'First come First served' basis. The following steps have since been taken to improve the working of Delhi Customs Retail Shop:

(i) The staff strength has been increased;

(ii) More space has been provided for display of goods being offered for sale;

(iii) Surprise visits are made regularly by the senior officers to ensure proper functioning of the Shop;

(iv) The details of the terms being offered for sale and their rates are being prominently displayed on a Notice Board outside the Retail Shop.

Constitution of Advisory Committee for each Nationalised Bank

8409. SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to constitute an advisory Committee for each nationalised bank at the district level;

(b) if not, whether Government propose to constitute any other similar body in order to enable the banks to serve the people more usefully particularly in the matter of providing loan facilities; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to appoint local Members of Parliament as non-official members on such bodies?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (c). No advisory committee has

been constituted separately for each nationalised bank at the district level. However, under the Lead Bank Scheme a District Coordination Committee (DCC) consisting of representatives of banks and Government officials of the Government development agencies has been constituted. The meetings of this committee which are presided by the District Collectors are held on a quarterly basis. The Committee reviews the performance of banks under the Annual Credit Plans including Government sponsored programmes and ensures coordination between banks and Government development agencies. In addition, an enlarged forum of the above committee known as the District Level Review Committee (DLRC) meets on a half yearly basis. Local Members of Parliament/Members of Legislative Assemblies are invited to the half yearly meeting of DLRC.

Opening of Branches of RBI

8410 SHRI JEEVARATHINAM Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state whether Government have any proposal to open branches of the Reserve Bank of India in important cities in order to streamline the functioning of the nationalised banks in the cities of business centres like Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI) Reserve Bank of India has reported that, at present, it has no proposal under consideration for opening of new branches/offices in any State in the country.

Development of Tourist Spots

8411 SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHOSALE. Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have received proposals for the development of some more

tourist spots upto International level during the current as well as next year,

(b) if so, the details thereof, State and Territory-wise separately for each year; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK) (a) to (c) The development of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State and Union Territory Governments. However, Department of Tourism extends financial assistance for strengthening of tourism infrastructure on specific proposals based on their merits, availability of funds and inter-se priorities.

Savings Schemes

8412 SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHOSALE Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether some financial institutions owned/recognised by Government are engaged in collection of money through their various savings schemes,

(b) whether some private financial institutions are also engaged in collection of money through their different savings schemes, and

(c) if so, the details thereof separately in respect of financial institutions owned by Government, financial institutions recognised by Government and private financial institutions?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI) (a) to (c). Funds from public are collected by the commercial banks through various deposit schemes. Some of the banks