

(c) what other assistance Government propose to give to newspaper industry?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The matter is engaging the attention of the Government.

Economic Offences

*12. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of economic offences which were shelved or closed during the last five years; and

(b) whether Government propose to re-open any of these cases?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDEVATE): (a) No case of economic offences has been shelved or closed during the last years. However, in a few cases of Income-Tax offences, prosecutions sanctioned were withdrawn on further indepth examinations of the relevant Direct Tax laws and regulations and the applicability of schemes such as the Amnesty Scheme (1985-87) framed under those regulations.

(b) There is no such proposal at present.

White Paper on Country's Economy

*13. SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to lay a White Paper on the state of the economy on the Table of the House; and

(b) if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDEVATE): (a) A paper on the current economic situation is proposed to be circulated.

(b) In the current session of the Lok Sabha.

[*Translation*]

Utilisation of Foreign Debts

*14. SHRI HUKMDEO NARAYAN YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of foreign debts and outstanding interest thereon, country-wise;

(b) the extent of loans taken for the payment of interest and when each such loan was taken during the last three years;

(c) whether Government propose to set up a high-level Commission to ascertain whether these foreign loans were properly utilised; and

(d) if so, the time by which such a Commission is to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDEVATE): (a) A statement if given below.

(b) Payment of interest on loans outstanding are made from our exports and gross invisible earnings. As such no loans were contracted for the payment of interest in the past.

(c) and (d). No, Sir. Government have, however, been following a cautious policy of external borrowings and closely monitoring the utilisation of these loans.