

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the findings thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c) A Committee appointed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in 1981, had, *inter-alia*, looked into the causes and magnitude of the problem of industrial sickness.

The important factors leading to industrial sickness were identified as management deficiencies, marketing constraints, demand recession, obsolescence of machinery, labour factor, non-availability of critical inputs such as power, essential raw materials, etc., liquidity constraint or inadequate availability of funds. The Committee also noted that it could be a combination of causes which could be responsible for making a unit sick.

The RBI reviews the magnitude of sickness in the portfolio of commercial banks every six months. As per the provisional information at the end of December, 1984, the number of sick units is 93,282 involving an outstanding amount of 3,638.39 crores.

[*Translation*]

Delay in Setting up of Aluminium Company Plant by National Aluminium Company

*482. PROF. CHANDRA BHANU DEVI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the work relating to the setting up of aluminium plant by National Aluminium Company is being much delayed ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) when this plant is likely to start production ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C PANT) : (a) and (b) As per the revised schedule, the project is almost on time,

(c) Start up of the aluminium plant is scheduled for December, 1986.

[*English*]

Valuation of Articles Brought as Accompanied/ Unaccompanied Baggage at International Airports

*483. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Appraisers are responsible for valuation of goods as per the provisions of the Customs Act for the levy of Customs duty ;

(b) if so, the number of Appraisers who have been posted round the clock in different International Airports of India for the purpose of valuation of the articles brought as accompanied and unaccompanied baggages ;

(c) whether Government are aware of the instances of under valuation and requisitioning high value items before expiry of prescribed time-limit for sale ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the measures taken/proposed to be taken to prevent recurrence of such instances in future ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : (a) and (b) Import and Export goods are assessed to duty by Appraisers. The value of such goods is declared by the importer or exporter and is subject to scrutiny by the Appraisers and percentage checks by another set of officers. However, as a measure of facilitation and in order to ensure quicker clearance of passengers, articles brought as accompanied and unaccompanied baggage are assessed to duty by the Air Customs Officers. In order to ensure uniformity, articles imported as baggage, are assessed to duty on the basis of price lists maintained by the Customs authorities at the airports.

(c) and (d) Articles imported as baggage, are not allowed to be sold, displayed, advertised or offered for sale or displayed in a

shops until the market price of such articles has depreciated to less than 50% of their market price, when new. Television sets and fire-arms are not, however, allowed to be so disposed of unless they have been used for a period of not less than five years from the date of clearance.

Contraventions of these restrictions often come to notice when appropriate action (including confiscation of goods and adjudication of penalty) is taken.

Mineral-Bearing Areas for Exploitation by Private Sector

*484. SHRI B. V. DESAI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have sought the views of the State Governments as well as public sector companies on the issue of throwing open the mineral-bearing areas for exploitation by the private sector ; and

(b) if so the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT) (a) and (b) The Central Government have constituted a Committee for the de-reservation of mineral bearing areas. The Committee has sought views of the State Governments on the

question of de-reservation. It has also sought the views of the public sector undertakings on the question of surrender of reserved areas.

Disparity in Commission Rates Charged by Nationalised Banks

*485. SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the minimum and maximum commission charged by each nationalised bank customers for the various services rendered by them ;

(b) the reasons for disparity in these charges ; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c) Based upon studies conducted by Indian Banks' Association about the costs incurred by the banks in rendering various services, the State Bank of India revised its service charges in June, 1985. The maximum and minimum charges levied by the State Bank of India for some of the important banking services are set out below :—

Item of service	Charges	
	Minimum Rs.	Maximum Rs.
1	2	3
1) Commission on collection		
(a) Bills	5.00	1000.00
(b) Cheques	3.00	1000.00
NOTE : Postage, Telegram charges and other out of pocket expenses have to be recovered in full.		
2) Exchange Purchases :		
(a) D.D. Purchase (Bills)	8.50	1000.00 + 0.35% of the amount of the Bill.