

2. Main items of exports to India from FRG include handmade carpets, leather and leather manufacture, textiles and textile products, processed diamonds and coloured gem stones and engineering goods.

3. The Federal Republic of Germany has emerged to be the largest trading partner for India in the European Economic Community. The growing trend in bilateral commercial exchanges between India and FRG are expected to be maintained.

Maturity claims pending with Life Insurance Corporation

*1099. SHRI C. JANGA REDDY :

DR. A.K. PATEL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of maturity claims pending with the Life Insurance Corporation for payment, during each of the last three years and the current year in the country ;

(b) whether the number of pending maturity claims is on the increase ;

(c) the reasons for large number of such cases ;

(d) the steps Government propose to take to settle claims expeditiously specially in cases of death when the bereaved deserve utmost sympathy on humanitarian grounds ; and

(e) whether such steps were taken some time back and if so, with what results ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) :
(a) to (e). A Statement is given below :

Statement

(a) The numbers of maturity claims pending with the Life Insurance Corporation of India for payment during each of the last three years and in the current

year in India as on 29.2.1988 are given below :

<i>As on</i>	<i>Number</i>
31.3.1985	95,907
31 3.1986	77,929
31.3.1987	65,263
29.2.1988	81,434

(Subject to audit)

(b) No, Sir. The number of pending maturity claims is not on the increase but there has been a steady decline over the years, except in current year for which audited figures are not yet available.

(c) The main reasons for pending maturity claims are non-receipt of claim forms, original policy documents, discharge forms, proof of age and proof of title from the policy holders.

(d) & (e). For expeditious settlement of maturity and death claims the LIC has taken several steps including the following :

(i) For payment of maturity claims including servival benefits, lists giving particulars of the concerned policies are generated sufficiently in advance so that the servicing offices can send the requisite discharge vouchers two months in advance of the date of maturity in respect of full force policies and 4 months in advance in respect of paid-up policies. The discharge vouchers in respect of paid-up policies are sent by registered post to the policyholders.

(ii) Wherever the maturity claim/survival benefit discharge vouchers are received alongwith the original policy documents and other requirements, if any, post dated cheque is sent to the policyholder 14 days in advance of the due date so that the policyholders is able to realise the proceeds of the cheque immediately on the due date.

(iii) In respect of maturity claims where the life assured's age has remained to be admitted, age proof is not insisted upon upto the sum assured of Rs. 20,000/.

(iv) Indemnity bond for loss of original policy document is dispensed with where the net claim amount payable is Rs. 1000/- or less. Where the net maturity claim amount payable does not exceed Rs. 5000/- only a letter of indemnity for loss of policy document is required to be furnished for claims settlement.

(v) The work of settlement of maturity claims including survival benefits has been decentralised to all out branches under reorganisation programme. With this decentralisation, the branch offices are in a better position to be in close contact with the policyholders and render all assistance to them at their doorsteps towards speedy settlement of claims.

(vi) Where the requirements are not received despite regular follow-up, a claims particular sheet is issued to one of the development officers in the concerned branch office so that he may contact the policyholder personally and obtain the pending requirements.

(vii) In case of death claims where title to the policy is open, ordinarily legal evidence of title would be necessary for settlement of claims. However, LIC considers settlement of claims in such cases also by dispensing with legal proof of title on the strength of an indemnity bond from the legal heirs of the deceased life assured jointly with a surety upto the claim amount of Rs. 1,50,000/.

This facility saves the claimants lot of hardships, time and expenses involved in obtaining legal evidence of title such as succession certificate or letters of administration. With a view to expediting claims settlement in such

cases, authority for waiver or legal evidence of title has been vested with the Sr. DMs. Incharge of the Divisions upto the net claim amount of Rs. 50,000/- and with the Zonal Managers upto the claim amount of Rs. 50,000/-. The cases where the net claim payable exceeds Rs. 1,50,000/- are considered at the Central Office for allowing settlement of claim dispensing with legal evidence of title depending upon the merits of each case.

(viii) In case of early death claims where the net claim amount payable does not exceed Rs. 10,000/- investigation into the bonafides of the claim is also dispensed with if the claim is found prima-facie genuine on the basis of the claim forms submitted.

[Translation]

Tea plantation in hilly areas of U.P.

*1100. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up some new nurseries for strengthening and development of tea plantations in hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh during the year 1988-89;

(b) if so, the names of places where these are proposed to be set up;

(c) whether nurseries will also be set up in Jaurasi area in Pithoragarh and Almora districts of this State; and

(d) if so, the time by which these will be set up ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) : (a) to (d). A Statement is given below.

Statement

(a) and (b). Yes, Sir, in Doon Valley area of Uttar Pradesh.

(c) and (d). Two survey teams have been constituted to conduct the survey of