

and Private Secretaries to the Secretaries to the government of India.

- (ii) The residential telephones provided to officers below Group 'A' rank and to Group 'A' officers beyond the existing permissible limits of 25% should be discontinued.
- (iii) No telephone should function in future at the residence of a Government officer beyond what is explicitly permitted under the relevant instructions of the Ministry of Finance.
- 2 Further, in view of the recent increase in telephone rentals and call charges, Ministries / Departments were asked in March, 1988 to effect a reduction of 20% in the number of telephones paid for by them by installing PB exchanges and thereby reducing direct lines.

#### **Export of Footwear to Japan and Australia**

\*214. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Japan and Australia have relaxed curbs on import of footwear, and

(b) if so, whether Indian leather industry has taken steps to increase export of footwear to Japan and Australia?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) In Japan import of footwear is allowed under quota subject to import duty. The quota levels have been increased from year to year. In Australia duty free imports of hand-made footwear as well as expansion in quotas are envisaged with effect from 1.3.1989.

(b) Yes, Sir.

#### **Income-Tax Relief to Film Stars**

\*215. SHRI MANIK REDDY:  
SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of film stars have been given Income-Tax relief recently;

(b) if so, their names;

(c) the quantum of amount for which relief has been given; and

(d) the reasons for giving such a relief?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): (a) to (d). Taxpayers (including film stars) can get "income-tax relief" under several relevant provisions of the Income-tax Act which provide for appeals, revision or reference etc. This "relief" could be provided by the appellate authority, or the revisionary authority or, as the case may be, by the High Court or Supreme Court. In another sense, 'relief' could also be provided by the concerned income-tax authorities in accordance with law by way of reduction or waiver of interest or penalty or both. Relief could, in yet another sense, be provided under the 'Amnesty Scheme' which was applicable in relation to claims made during November, 1985 to 31st March, 1987. As the intended connotation of the expression "income-tax relief" is not clear, it is not possible to obtain and furnish the specific information contemplated by the Hon'ble Members.

#### **Diversion of Bhagirathi at Farakka**

\*216. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bhagirathi at the downstream at Farakka has started diverting its course;

(b) if so, whether the diversion may endanger the barrage at Farakka in the absence of any remedial steps; and

(c) the steps taken/contemplated by Union Government to safeguard the interest of Farakka barrage and to contain erosion of soil?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir.