

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Computerisation in Income Tax Department

*513. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the areas in which computerisation in the Income-tax Department has been started and the details thereof ;

(b) whether computerisation in these areas will lead to decrease in employment opportunities and promotional prospects ;

(c) whether any study has been conducted in this regard ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) A micro computer is already in use in Delhi for allotting permanent account numbers and for various other purposes. At present a proposal is under consideration for installing a mini computer for the following areas in each of the four metropolitan cities namely, Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Madras :

- (i) Monitoring accuracy in manual calculation of taxes in high revenue yielding cases ;
- (ii) Quarterly review of Central Action Plan of the Department ;
- (iii) Compilation of key area performance statistics ;
- (iv) Processing of challans received in the Central Treasury Unit of Commissioner Charges ;
- (v) Allotment of Permanent Account Number (PAN) ;
- (vi) Processing of applications for approval of terms and conditions of service contract outside India u/s 80 RRA of the Income-tax Act.

Tenders have already been received for purchasing a mini computer for Madras and the same is under processing.

(b) to (d) The limited use of computers in the Income-tax Department to the extent indicated above is not likely to lead to any decrease in employment opportunities and promotional prospects. A Committee consisting of senior officers of the Department has been constituted to go into the entire question of computerisation in the Department.

Long-Term Trade Agreement between India and Poland

*515. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agreement has been signed between India and Poland for a long-term trade plan, a new trade, and payment agreement for continuing the rupee trade and another for the avoidance of double taxation ;

(b) the balance of trade in India at present ; and

(c) the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) During the last four years, the trade has been in India's favour. During the first six months of 1984-85, the trade was in favour of India by about Rs. 26 crores.

Instructions to Nationalised Banks to extend Facilities Under IRDP

*517. SHRI JAGANNATH PATNAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have issued some instructions to the nationalised banks to extend facilities to the beneficiaries under the Integrated Rural Development Programme ;

(b) if so, the details regarding the number of branches opened in Orissa providing such financial assistance ; and

(c) whether Government have sought the report regarding the number of beneficiaries who have received assistance from the various banks in that State during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India has been issuing instructions to the nationalised banks from time to time for providing bank credit to the beneficiaries under the Integrated Rural Development Programme. All the branches of scheduled commercial banks operating in a State are expected to provide financial assistance to identified eligible borrowers under IRDP. The number of branches of scheduled commercial banks operating in Orissa was 1561 as at the end of December '84. The Government have been receiving monthly progress reports relating to the number of beneficiaries, bank loan and subsidy disbursed in each State under Integrated Rural Development Programme.

Modernisation of Bhilai Steel Plant

*518. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to modernise and improve the performance of Bhilai Steel Plant during the Seventh Five Year Plan period ;

(b) if so, the amount proposed to be spent therefor ; and

(c) the details of the modernisation programme taken up in the Sixth Five Year Plan in the above Steel Plant ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) to (c) : Modernisation and technological improvement of a steel plant is a continuous process. Every year, the steel plants are allocated funds for additions, modifications and replacements to effect improvements in their performance. During the VI Plan, the Bhilai Steel Plant spent about Rs. 69.42 crores for additions, modifications and replacements. The major schemes that were under implementation at Bhilai during the VI Plan were :

- (i) Coal dust injection in blast furnace ;
- (ii) Conversion of open hearth furnace into twin hearth furnace ;
- (iii) Adoption of throat armour for better charge distribution in blast furnace ;

(iv) Expansion of the steel plant from 2.5 to 4.0 MT capacity per year which envisages incorporation of modern technologies as given below :—

- (a) Adoption of basic oxygen furnaces for steel making ;
- (b) Continuous casting of steel ;
- (c) Bell-less charging in blast furnace ;
- (d) Cast-house slag granulation ;
- (e) Adoption of secondary ladle refining in the steel melting shop ;
- (f) 7 m. tall coke oven battery as compared to conventional height of 4.3/4.5/5/5.0 m ; and
- (g) Thyristor control in the mills ;

SAIL are formulating a comprehensive proposal for de-bottlenecking and technological upgradation of the Bhilai Steel Plant during the VII Plan. The cost estimates and technical details of this scheme will be finalised after the scheme is approved by Government.

During 1985-86, an amount of Rs. 20 crores will be spent by the Bhilai Steel Plant for additions, modifications and replacements.

[*Translation*]

Availability of Janata Cloth

*519. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the present demand of controlled cloth, sarees and dhotis in the country and the percentage of demand thereof which is met ;

(b) whether Janata Cloth, instead of being made available to the poor people, is generally being sold out by unfair means ;

(c) if so, the remedial steps taken by Government in this regard ; and

(d) the number of persons found guilty and the details of the punishment awarded to them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) :