

Bank Loans to SCs and STs

1447. SHRI THAN SINGH JATAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any complaints have been received with regard to loans being given by banks to unemployed persons belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and backward classes under self-employment scheme;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon;

(c) whether Government propose to constitute a Committee to look into such complaints and also to oversee the functioning of banks;

(d) whether Government propose to give loans to Safai Karmcharis belonging to Scheduled Castes community at lower rate of interest for various purposes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVJAY SINGH):

(a) and (b). The Government, Reserve bank of India and Banks do receive complaints from different categories of borrowers including SC/ST seeking loans assistance under different programmes including self-employment programme. These complaints as and when received are looked into by the concerned banks for remedial measures.

(c) The progress of such schemes and other general banking matters are discussed in the meetings of District Consultative Committee (DCC). There is no proposal to constitute any separate Committee to look into the complaints regarding the implementation of these Schemes.

(d) and (e). The commercial banks are

extending credit to weaker sections under various programmes of Central and State Government apart from their own programmes. Advances upto Rs. 6500 are available at the lowest rate of interest of 4% p.a. under the Differential Rate of Interest Scheme to the eligible borrowers, including members of Scheduled Castes.

[English]

Fiscal Relief to Sick Units

1448. SHRI AMAL DATTA:
DR. SUDHIR RAY:
SHRI MANIK SANYAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to extend more fiscal relief to sick units;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which a final decision is proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(c) the names of sick units to be provided relief?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVJAY SINGH):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). The question does not arise.

Under Invoiced Imports

1449. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that ball-bearings of Chinese origin are being imported at heavily under invoiced prices through Bombay and Calcutta parts from

Hongkong, Singapore and United Kingdom;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to prevent such under invoiced imports?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH):

(a) and (b). The Government is aware of the problem of under-valuation in the case of imports of Chinese Bearings. These imports are generally made by traders of Singapore and Hongkong. Supplies of such bearings from traders based in Middle East/UK are infrequent.

(c) The Government has revised the Customs duty structure for bearings and a substantial portion of the rates of duties is specific for the bearings prone to under-valuation. Customs authorities are also insisting on manufacturer's invoice/price list in cases where invoices from traders are produced for assessment.

[*Translation*]

National Tribunal on Direct Taxes

1450. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a National Tribunal on direct taxes; and

(b) if so, when the said tribunal is likely to be set up and the details about its jurisdiction?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter of setting up National Tribunal of Direct Taxes is under process and its finalization will take some more time. The Tribunal when set up would take over the work relating to direct taxes from the High Courts.

[*English*]

RBI Guidelines for Opening of Letters of Credit

1451. SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of guidelines issued recently by the Reserve Bank of India for opening of Letters of Credit by banks for import of goods;

(b) whether the import of intermediates for manufacture of life saving bulk drugs has been adversely affected as a result thereof; and

(c) if so, the action proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH):

(a) to (c). As a step towards conservation of foreign exchange in the wake of the current balance of payment position, RBI has issued the following instructions to the banks in the matter of financing of imports.

(i) Import of Capital Goods

Banks have been advised not to provide rupee term loans for this purpose and to direct importers to the financial institutions for routing the imports through the foreign currency lines of credit available with the latter. Banks have also been advised that where the imports cannot be covered under the lines of credit available with financial