

(d) the steps taken to speed up collection of direct taxes?

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 main reasons for lower collections this year are the issue of more refunds, Nil payment of advance tax by Oil and Natural Gas Commission and the disturbed conditions in several parts of the country.

(c) During the month of November, 90, net collection of direct taxes was Rs. 515.54 crores as against Rs. 325.00 crores during November, 1989. Figures for December, 90, have not yet been compiled.

(d) Several legislative and administrative steps have been taken to increase, and speed up collection of direct taxes. The rate of surcharge payable by domestic companies has been increased from 8% to 15%. It has also been proposed to increase the rate of surcharge in the case of income tax payers from 8% to 12%. It has further been proposed to restrict the deduction for depreciation in the current accounting year to 75% of what would otherwise be available. Instructions have been issued to the Chief Commissioners for early finalisation of assessments & disposal of appeals in bigger cases. They have also been asked to accord top most priority to the work of budget collection in the remaining part of the financial year.

#### **Gold Mining**

1605. SHRI PRAKASH KOKO BRAHMBHATT: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some foreign companies have been engaged for gold mining work in India; and

(b) if so, the names of these companies and the terms and conditions on which they have been awarded the work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BASAVARAJ PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Separate Cadre of Rural Development Officers for Commercial Banks**

1606. SHRI PRAKASH KOKO BRAHMBHATT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has suggested that a separate cadre of rural development officers be formed for commercial banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which final decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c). The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has suggested in February, 1990 to the Indian Banks Association to examine a proposal for a cadre of Rural Development Officer in Banks. The proposal was examined by a Committee constituted by the Indian Banks Association which did not favour the same and they have informed RBI accordingly.

#### **Exports to USSR**

1607. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to raise