

FTS and NTS schemes can also draw exchange upto US\$ 500 and US\$ 250 respectively from commercial banks authorised to deal in foreign exchange as well as authorised money changers, without prior permission of RBI.

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : The question was raised on the basis of a report appearing in the Economic Times of 13th July 1985, according to which the Exchange Controller is reported to have said that the Reserve Bank was considering a proposal to delegate more powers to the commercial banks in this respect. Is it not correct that the Patwardhan Committee has made recommendations for liberalization of these powers and delegation of more powers to the commercial banks ?

May I know what is the reaction of the Government thereto—or of the Reserve Bank ?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : We do not intend to increase the powers—what they have now.

Working of LIC without Coalman

*274. **SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL**† :

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Life Insurance Corporation of India is working without a Chairman;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to fill the vacancy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). After the expiry of the tenure of a regular Chairman in September, 1982, the senior-most Managing Director of the LIC was appointed as Current-in-Charge with the powers of the Chairman. The appointment of a regular Chairman was postponed pending final decision on the reorganisation of the Life Insurance Corporation of India, the Bill for which was introduced in the Lok Sabha on December 19, 1983.

(c) The matter of appointment of a Chairman is under active consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the appointment of the Chairman has not been made since September, 1982 when the tenure of the regular Chairman had expired and it can affect the efficiency of the Life Insurance Corporation. The hon. Minister has stated in his reply that the appointment of the Chairman is under active consideration of the Government. I want to know from the hon. Minister the time by which this active consideration will bring results ?

[English]

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : The position is this : there was a proposal to divide the Life Insurance Corporation into five Corporations. Now that proposal has been dropped. So, there was some delay on that account, because that was under consideration. We have come to a name; and it is under processing with the Government.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : The reply which the hon. Minister has given is very interesting. He tells the House as if the Chairman could not be appointed, because the Bill to split up the LIC was already introduced in the Lok Sabha on 19th December, 1983. In his own reply, in the first line, he has said that the expiry of the tenure of the regular Chairman was in September 1982. So, anticipating that on December 19, 1983, the Bill was going to be brought, with that telescopic vision, the hon. Minister kept the vacancy unfilled. The fact is, in almost of the public sector institutions, they are not at all having very set norms for the appointments. There are a number of irregularities and discriminations, and as a result of that, we find that a number of public sector institutions remained topless; by keeping them topless, they might have modernised them, but in the process, the efficiency suffers.

MR. SPEAKER : Did they become more attractive ?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : I know what he has in his mind.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I want to ask him particularly that this being

the position in a number of other cases also, will he really apply his mind properly and evolve definite norms and see to it that no post like that remains vacant, because the man who comes only as an *ad hoc* man, he has no commitment to his job at all. A number of decisions are not properly taken. That is what is happening in LIC also. Therefore, will he revise it and at least give time-bound programme when will the vacancy be filled up after keeping it vacant for such a long time ?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : I can say that we will fill it up very very soon.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : He has not explained. In 1982, the vacancy was created. Your Bill is going to be introduced on 19th December, 1983. In between why did you keep it vacant ?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : Of course, there is some time lapse between September 1982 and December. In December, there was a proposal. If we have a senior person today and tomorrow we say, we will bifurcate it, no person would be willing to come. That is also a problem, because with the pendency that you are going to divide up.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Here, you have got the Bill, but in a number of other public sector institutions also you have kept the vacancies unfilled. You had replied to me in the past also. There was no Bill. So, this is the general deficiency of the government and lack of approach.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : Steps are being taken. It is not that it is a general approach like that. There are specific problems by which there are pendency and delay and action is taken to fill up vacancies.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : By what time will you fill up the vacancy ?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : I cannot tell you exactly; very soon.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : "Very soon" has no meaning.

Purchases through DGS and D

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

(a) whether a large amount is due from the States, on account of purchases made by them through the Director General of Supply and Disposal under all kinds of contracts;

(b) if so, what is the total amount;

(c) since when is it due; and

(d) whether Government are considering charging interest on these transactions to expedite payments ?

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

(a) to (c). A statement is given below.

(d) No, Sir.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Amounts of Rs. 21.39 crores and Rs. 28 lakhs are due from the State Governments of Jammu and Kashmir and Sikkim respectively as on 31st July, 1985. In the case of some other State Governments, there are dues on account of disputed claims totalling Rs. 8.37 crores, mainly on account of relevant departments having been converted into autonomous bodies.

(c) The oldest item among dues from the Jammu and Kashmir State pertains to 1976-77; oldest item out of the dues payable by the Sikkim Govt. pertains to December, 1983. Oldest item out of the claims due from the rest are falling between the year 1976-77 to 1984-85.

[Translation]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question is that the Government of Jammu and Kashmir owe Rs. 21.39 crores whereas the rest of the States owe Rs. 8 crores to the Central Government. Do you make supplies inspite of the fact that the dues from the Government of Jammu and Kashmir date as back as