

Statement

(a) and (b) The number of foreign collaborations approved during the past five years is as under :—

1981	=	389
1982	=	590
1983	=	673
1984	=	752
1985	=	1024

It will be seen that over the years there has been an uptrend in the number of collaborations approved. However, the tax and exchange control formalities to be observed before remittances under approved collaborations can be effected are constantly kept under review and steps for improvement taken, wherever necessary.

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : I am glad to know that the present industrial policy is in favour of inviting more and more foreign collaborations to our country. And I find that in 1985 as many as 1024 collaborations were approved by the Government. May I know as to how many of these collaborations have taken effect? How far the procedures laid down by the Finance Ministry come in the way of entering into foreign collaborations by our entrepreneur? Is there any monitoring cell in the Finance Ministry which coordinates with other Ministries and follows up collaborations till their approval by the Finance Ministry?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : We allow foreign technology on a selective basis in high priority areas like cement, fertiliser, petro-chemicals, electronics, etc. The performance is being monitored. In fact, the Finance Ministry is also taking steps to monitor the performance. The Government has already taken some steps and because of those steps we can say that there is substantial improvement in this area,

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : My question has not been answered. The Finance Ministry has sanctioned so far 1024 collaborations in 1985. I want to know as to how many of these collaborations have taken effect, in other words, how many industries have started running in our country under these collaborations?

of no objection certificate from the Administrative Ministry alone, collaborations are pending for more than 3 years. In the last five years, whatever collaborations the Finance Ministry has cleared, whether those collaborations have now taken effect in our country by running industry or some other forum?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : In the case of composite applications for industrial licence and foreign collaboration, and capital goods import, these are considered by the Project Approval Board which is required to decide within ninety days. Secretary, Industry is Chairing this Board and he is practically reviewing the performance. Finance Secretary is Chairing the Foreign Investment Board and there also steps are taken to see that delay is removed. The SIA, that is, Secretary for the Industrial Approval is supposed to coordinate with all other ministries.

So, it will take time to know the implementation of Foreign Collaboration approval by the Government. RBI conducts periodical surveys in this respect. So, the performance in all the areas is being monitored.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : The hon. Minister replied that clearance is given by the Board within 90 days, and thereafter the hon. Member had asked what action was taken to clear over 1,000 cases which were pending for the last two years and what action was taken against those who did not clear these cases within 90 days?

[English]

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Sir, I have stated that in the case of composite application only it takes ninety days. In other cases they have to dispose of the applications within sixty-days.

Sale of Cigarettes at Higher Prices

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*195. SHRI RAM BHAGAT
PASWAN :
SHRI MANPHOOL SINGH
CHAUDHARY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be

(a) whether Government are aware that some multi-national cigarette companies have started new brands without approval of price and certain cigarette brands are being sold at a price much higher than that printed on their packets; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken by Government against those companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Clearance of cigarettes not being under self-removal procedure, prior approval of price is not necessary. However assessment of excise duty is made at specific rates on the basis of sale price printed on the package of cigarettes. There have been reports of sale of certain brands of cigarettes in retail at prices higher than the declared printed sale prices.

(b) State Governments have been asked to take suitable action in such cases under the provisions of the Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1975 and the rules made thereunder.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir there are many companies who sell their products arbitrarily without getting the price approved by the Government and without marking the price on the packets and as a result of that the Government cannot make assessment of the excise duty leviable on the stocks produced by them. The I.T.C. has started a number of new brands of cigarettes during 1984-85, has secured no approval either from the State Government or the Central Government. I want to know what action Government propose to take in this regard. If they did get an approval, when did they get it?

[English]

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : The prices are mentioned on packages of different brands of cigarettes and in some cases different prices are mentioned on packages of identical brands. The Government has taken action against those people wherever it has been brought to the notice of the Government. Whenever there is

misuse of this provision, we have already been taking action. In two cases we have taken action and there the investigation is in progress.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN : Against whom have you taken action?

[English]

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : When there is violation, they will be prosecuted.

MR. SPEAKER : Question Hour is over now.

WRITTEN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Setting up of joint ventures between India and U.K.

*184. SHRI B. V. DESAI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the main purpose of the trade team from the U.K. in January, 1986 was to look for Indian parters for setting up joint ventures for expanding trade with India and for transfer of technology ;

(b) if so, whether any agreements have been reached in this regard ; and

(c) if so, the details of agreements signed ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) (a) The visit of the British delegation in January, 1986 aimed at expanding and promoting business investment, technical collaboration and joint ventures between India and the U.K.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Export of Low Quality Tobacco

*190. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :