

Concessions for EOUs and SEZs

4050. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Export Promotion Council for Export-Oriented Units and Special Economic Zones have represented for continuance of the concessions Under Section 10A and 10B of the Income Tax Act for some more time;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) what steps, if any, has been proposed in the current year's budget for a tax holiday for 100 per cent EOUs and SEZs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRIGINGEEN.RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir. A representation dated 12-3-2003 has been received in the Ministry of Commerce requesting continuation of benefits under section 10A and 10B in case of change of ownership.

(b) and (c) The Finance Bill, 2003 has proposed to remove the restriction on continuance of tax holiday in the event of change in ownership. Further, the tax holiday to manufacturing activities under section 10A and 10B are proposed to be extended to processing of precious and semi-precious stones.

Rate of taxes on companies

†4051. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(d) the comparative rate of taxes being imposed on companies in India and other developing countries in the world;

(e) whether surcharge is also imposed on the companies in India despite higher rate of company tax here; and

(b) if so, the details of such tax structure and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The details are given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Surcharge at the rate of 5% (proposed to be reduced to 2.5% *vide* Finance Bill, 2003) is levied on the companies in India. Rates of Corporate Tax in India are comparable with those prevalent in other developing countries.

† Original notice of the questions was received in Hindi

Statement*Taxes on Companies*

Country	Corporate Tax Rate
India	35% + Surcharge @ 5% (proposed to be reduced to 2.5% by Finance Bill, 2003)
Malaysia	28% 38% (Petroleum companies)
Mexico	35%
Myanmar	30% (Domestic companies) 35% or at progressive rates from 5% to 40% (Foreign companies)
Pakistan	45% (General rate) 50% (Banking companies) 35% (Public companies) 45% (Other companies)
Phillippines	32%
Sri Lanka	35% (Standard rate) 30% (Public listed companies) 20% surcharge (in Financial Year 2001 -02).

Filing or income tax returns by political parties

4052. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of political parties which are maintaining the books of accounts properly and filing annual returns;
- (b) what are the general source of funding of these parties; -
- (c) the steps taken to bring all political parties under the tax net; and
- (d) the steps taken to prevent the black money flow into the coffers of parties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.