

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Prime Minister's Office had received some complaints regarding the difficulties allegedly faced by Shri Krishan La! Sharma of Ludhiana in closing the Saving Bank Account after the death of his wife.

(d) The Bank of India has reported that the Bharat Nagar Chowk Branch has asked Shri Krishan Lai Sharma to submit necessary claim forms and the indemnity letter duly signed by the claimants in order to facilitate the making of payment by the branch.

(e) The bank has reported that delay in settling the matter is on account of non submission of the requisite documents by Shri Sharma and therefore, the question of any action being taken against any officer of the bank does not arise.

Implementation of SIU recommendations

2049. SHRI LAKKHIRAM AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ministries/attached offices inspected by the Staff Inspection Unit of the Ministry of Finance during the last three years alongwith their recommendations, year-wise;

(b) how much savings has been effected due to the implementation of the recommendations of the SIU, year-wise; and

(c) what are the details of the offices which have not implemented the recommendations of the SIU during the last three years year-wise and the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a)

Year	Number	Posts recommended for	
		Abolition	Creation
1996-97	7	616	6
1997-98	12	837	13
1998-99	11	505	23

(b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

FICCI and CD's demand for reduction of interest on PFs

2050. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that FICCI and CII have sought from Government to reduce rate of interest on provident funds available to employees and workers at present;
- (b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and
- (c) what is Government's stand on the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) Suggestions are received from time to time from several forums for reduction of interest on Provident Funds, which are considered in terms of existing policy of the Government of India. As of now, there is no such proposal to reduce the interest rate on Provident Funds.

Corporate/Income Tax collection

2051. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the total Corporate and Income tax collected in this financial year, so far;
- (b) what is the total achievement in terms of percentage as compared to the last financial year;
- (c) the number of more people brought into assessment; and
- (d) what steps are being taken to bring more people into the Tax net?