

(c) According to the Bank, the details of applications received from dependants of the deceased employees from Ludhiana Zone during the last three years are as under:

Year	Total applications received	Approved for appointment	Number of applications rejected
1996	25	18	7
1997	31	19	12
1998	37	23	14

According to the bank, the applications have been rejected on account of one or more of the following grounds(s):

- (i) One of the dependants already gainfully employed;
 - (ii) Condition of the family not indigent;
 - (iii) Application being overaged;
 - (iv) Deceased employee was involved in financial embezzlement / fraud;
 - (v) Not eligible as the employee was retired on medical grounds after attaining the age of 55 years.
- (d) The Bank has further reported that no case from Meerut Region has been approved upon reconsideration during the said 3 years.
- (e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

Incidents of smuggling of contraband by diplomats

2062. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether two Saudi diplomats were caught at Indira Gandhi International Airport with contraband gold worth Rs. 3 crores;
- (b) the number of other diplomats caught during the last three years indulging in smuggling of contraband goods;
- (c) the action taken against them; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to stop recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) Yes, two Saudi Arabian Diplomats were intercepted this year at I.G.I. Airport, New Delhi by the officers of DRI.(Hqrs.), New Delhi, attempting to smuggle foreign currency and gold—totally valued at Rs. 2.97 crores.

(b) Three other Diplomats have been found involved in smuggling of contraband goods, in last 3 years.

(c) For the serious misuse of diplomatic privileges and facilities, the Ministry of External Affairs had requested the concerned Missions to withdraw the Diplomats involved. The Diplomats left the country as per request or even earlier as they were said to have completed the tenure.

(d) Field formations and Intelligence Agencies (including DRI) under Department of Revenue are alert together appropriate intelligence/information if any diplomats are found indulging in such activities and for taking requisite action against them.

Financial Crisis Faced by State Governments

2063. SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:

SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments are facing financial crisis;

(b) if so, the names of such State Governments;

(c) whether these Governments have asked the Central Government for financial aid to meet the financial crisis, if so, the names of such Governments; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (d) Some States, which are unable to match the receipts and expenditure in their