

Staff Working in State Bank of Patiala

2072. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that some clerical staff of the State Bank of Patiala in Patiala (Punjab) is working at one station for the last 10 years;
- (b) if so, whether Government propose to take action in this regard and transfer these persons; and
- (c) if so, by when and the names of such persons who are likely to be transferred?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir, State Bank of Patiala have reported that the transfer of the clerical staff are effected as per the transfer policy of the bank for clerical staff according to which clerical staff can stay at a station beyond 10 years.

- (b) and (c) Do not arise.

Under-Invoicing by Seagram

2073. SHRI MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item captioned "Seagram's cheap imports taken industry by surprise" appearing in the Financial Express, New Delhi on the 23rd November, 1998;
- (b) whether it is a fact that Seagram is continuously importing scotch concentrates since 1994 at a very low price; and
- (c) if so, what action Government propose to take to check the under-invoicing being done by Seagram for import of Scotch concentrates and the action contemplated against the company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) Yes Sir.

- (b) and (c) M/s. -Seagram Manufacturing Pvt. Ltd., a subsidiary of M/s Jose Seagram & Sons, UK has been importing concentrates of

Alcoholic Beverages falling under heading No. 2208.90 of the Customs Tariff Act since December, 1994. the valuation of the concentrate of Alcoholic Beverages imported by M/s Seagram since December, 1994 is under investigation. Appropriate action as warranted under the provisions of Customs Act, 1962 would be taken on completion of investigation in this case.

CBI raids on the residence of Customs Officials

2074. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of, FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in recent raids conducted by the C.B.I, on the residence of certain customs officials and the Mumbai Air Cargo Complex, huge amount of unaccounted wealth was discovered?

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government in the matter;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Surprise check was undertaken by C.B.I at the Air Cargo Complex, Mumbai on 18.11.99. On the basis of the search conducted, C.B.I, registered a criminal case against 17 customs officials. They have also searched the residence of three customs officers, following which C.B.I has registered cases against 2 customs officials for possessing assets disproportionate to their known source of income.

(c) Pending receipt of full investigation report from C.B.I, three Customs officers have been placed under suspension and 14 officers have been transferred out of Air Cargo Complex, Mumbai, and posted in non-sensitive work. Besides, a number of strong measures have been taken to tighten the administrative control as a whole in the entire Customs organization of Mumbai.

Appointment on compassionate grounds in UCO Bank

†2075. SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether appointment on compassionate grounds in Nationalised Bank has been banned, if so, the reasons therefor;