

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) A policy holder is entitled to get the paid up value of the policy if the policy lapses after three years. The policy holders sometimes do not collect the amount due to them for one reason or the other. In such cases efforts are made by LIC to reach the policy holder through letters and personal efforts. In spite of this if no response is received from the policyholder or his whereabouts are not known, the amount is transferred to the 'Written Back Account' so that as and when the policy holder approaches the LIC, the amount could be paid to the policyholder. If the LIC is unable to reach the policyholder even after 5 years, the amount in the Written Back Account is credited to the Life Fund and the benefit is given to the other policyholders until the amount is claimed by the policyholder. The Amount due to policyholders will not get time-barred simply because it is not claimed by them in time. The net amount in the 'Written Back Account' transferred to the Life Fund during the last 5 years, after unclaimed payments are made to the policyholders, is Rs. 75.88 crore.

Fraud cases involving exporters

161. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of fraud that have come to the notice of Government in which the exporters have claimed concessions that were not admissible to them during the last three years, year-wise alongwith the details thereof;

(b) whether any custom officials have also been involved in those cases of frauds; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken against those officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): The number of cases of fraud that have come to the notice of Government in which the exporters have claimed concessions that were not admissible to them during the last three years, year-wise (1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000—upto October, 1999) are indicated in the enclosed statement (See below).

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. 12 customs officials were suspected to be

involved in these cases of fraud. Out of these, two officials were arrested and nine officials including these two (who were arrested) have been placed under suspension. Three officials have been issued show cause notices to explain their conduct.

Statement

| Sl. No. | No. of cases | Export Promotion Schemes involved | Amount of export benefit or custom duty involved (Rs. in crores) |
|--|--------------|---|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1997-98 | | | |
| 1. | 10 | Drawback | 74.70 |
| 2. | 38 | Duty Exemption Entitlement Certificate Scheme | 50.74 |
| 3. | 01 | Duty Entitlement Pass Book Scheme | 1.20 |
| 4. | 02 | 100% Export Oriented Units | 0.10 |
| 5. | 01 | Units in Export Promotion Zone | 1.21 |
| 1998-99 | | | |
| 6. | 25 | Drawback | 61.69 |
| 7. | 33 | Duty Exemption Entitlement Certificate Scheme | 52.39 |
| 8. | 08 | Duty Entitlement Pass Book Scheme | 23.78 |
| 9. | 01 | 100% Export Oriented Units | 1.59 |
| 1999-2000 (up to October, 1999) | | | |
| 10. | 23 | Drawback | 27.50 |
| 11. | 25 | Duty Exemption Entitlement Certificate Scheme | 28.72 |
| 12. | 15 | Duty Entitlement Pass Book Scheme | 31.37 |