

[13 March 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Special Exemption in Excise Duty for Expansion of Old Industrial Units

***258. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to give special exemption in Central Excise to promote new investment and to expand the old industrial units;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal under consideration to give the above exemption for investment in Bihar; and

(c) if so, by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) There is no proposal to give exemption from Central Excise Duty to promote new investment or to expand old industrial units, in general.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Dose not arise in view of (b) above.

Permission to Operate on International Routes

259. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that now private domestic carriers will also be given right to operate on international routes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) As per the current guidelines, private domestic airlines are not permitted to operate on international routes.

Legislation to Regulate Use of Ground Water

***260. PROF.. RAM DEO BHANDARY:** Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received the comments of State Governments on the draft Bill to regulate and control the use of

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

ground water;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the proposed bill is likely to be introduced in Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) to (c) The Union Government has circulated a Model Bill to all the States Union Territories to enable them to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development. So far, only the States of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh have enacted legislation for this purpose. The Governments of Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan and West Bengal and Union Territory of Pondicherry and Lakshadweep have informed that the bills on the lines of Model Bill are under various stages of enactment. The Governments of Bihar, Mizoram, Sikkim and Tripura have intimated that there is no need to make legislation to regulate over-exploitation of ground water in their States. The remaining States have not responded in the matter.

The Union Government has no intention as at present to enact any legislation in this regard because water being a State subject, suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development has to be enacted by the State/Union Territories.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Expenditure on Security of Airports

1774. **SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI:** Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the security at all the airports is being maintained;

(b) if so, what is the expenditure incurred on such security; and

(c) the details of such expenditure during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir, Security is being maintained at all