

Rating of Indian equity market by HSBC

2552. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as reported in the Business observer of Sept. 16, 1998 H.S.B.C. Securities has rated the Indian Equity Market as the most attractive market in Asian Sub-Continent, which could survive the allround market depression and recession in Asian Economies; and

(b) if so, what factors are taken into account while grading the Equity markets, and where Indian market stands in respect of the various aspects?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) H.S.B.C. Securities in its update dated 31.8.98 of Asian Strategy has moved India to an overweight stance, after taking into consideration the factors like relatively benign surplus liquidity conditions, stable earning outlook and low level of policy/political risk in India.

Arrangement between SBI and Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation

2553. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank of India and the Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation have entered into an arrangement called "Takeover Finance", to enable non-lenders to participate in various infrastructure development projects; and

(b) if so, the details of the arrangement, and how much of non-lenders' fund is expected from this arrangement to be made available for such projects during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Perhaps the Hon'ble Member wants to know about "Take out Finance". The State Bank of India (SBI) and Infrastructure Development Finance Co. Limited (IDFC) have entered into an arrangement called "Takeout Finance" structure to address some of the constraints faced in financing infrastructure sector.

(b) SBI has reported that the agreement envisages Liquidity Support and Credit risk support. IDFC and SBI have entered into an agreement to initially participate in projects under the Take Out Financing Structure upto an aggregate amount of Rs. 400 crore, which limit may be reviewed and revised by mutual consent.

Fixation of Brand Rate

2554. SHRI S. AGANIRAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) The number of cases of fixation of Brand Rate application pending in the Revenue Department as of October, 1998;

(b) whether it is a fact that many cases for fixation of Brand Rates are getting delayed; and

(c) what steps are being taken up to speed up the clearance of pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN): (a) 1,700 cases are pending for fixation of Brand Rate of drawback as on 31.10.1998.

(b) Yes, Sir. The delay in fixation of Brand Rate of Drawback is due to (i) delay in furnishing the application by the

exporters beyond the stipulated period of 60 days and consequential delay in receipt of verification of the date by the customs and Central Excise Formations, (ii) condonation of delay by the Central Government where the Brand Rate applications have been filed after the stipulated period of 60 days and even beyond the extended period of another 30 days, and (iii) permission for conversion of shipments made under Advance Licencing Scheme to drawback by the Central Government requiring no objection from the Ministry of Commerce (DGFT) and factual verification report from the concerned Commissioner of Customs.

(c) To expedite pending applications, periodical review is undertaken to clear the backlog by putting extra hours. Further, one time relaxation in filing the drawback claims upto 90 days after the normal period of 60 days for reasons beyond the control of the exporter and in specific circumstances has also been given under Drawback Rules. Drawback Rules have been amended delegeting power of conversion from Central Government to Commissioners of Customs so as to remove the delay on this account. Simplified Brand Rate fixation scheme under which Brand Rate of drawback can be determined without pre-verification of data has been further extended to

manufacturer exporters who are registered partner firms with past track records of at least two years as certified by the jurisdictional Central Excise Officer and further supported by a bank certificate for the financial solvency. As a result of this effort, the large number of applications which are pending will now be processed expeditiously.

Efforts are also underway to computerise fixation of Brand Rate of drawback.

Film personalities with highest Income Tax

2555. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the top ten film personalities with highest arrears of income tax due against them; and

(b) the steps taken to recover the taxes indicating the total tax arrears against the film industry in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN): (a) The names of top ten film personalities with highest arrears of income tax due against them are as under:—

Sl. No.	Name of Assessee	Income tax outstanding (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	M/s. Vijay Production	1304.00
2.	Shri K. Subramaniyam	813.00
3.	M/s. Sujata Films	632.00
4.	Sri Mukesh Bhatt	473.04
5.	Adlabs Films Pvt. Ltd.	272.95
6.	Ms. R. Jayaprada	257.00
7.	Smt. Jaya Bachchan	221.14
8.	M/s. Sujata Production Pvt. Ltd.	219.00
9.	Sri Shah Rukh Khan	155.05
10.	Sri Subhash Ghai	126.23