

(d) what steps will be taken to bring back such drifted customers; and

(e) what action will be taken on the officers who have been responsible for bring band name to Air India and for allowing loyal customers to go away?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CM. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) The scheme was conceptualised in June, 1996 and launched in the same month.

(c) and (d) There has been positive response from the travel trade and passengers to the schemes resulting in higher loads and increased revenue.

(e) Does not arise.

Industrial Turn-Over and Income Tax Dues

3558. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the value of total industrial turnover year-wise for the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the total income-tax paid by industry for the last three years, State-wise, year-wise;

(c) accumulated income-tax due to the industry till date with details of defaulters and amount due; and

(d) steps being taken to recover the dues?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No state-wise data in respect of the value of industrial turnover is maintained. The figures of overall growth rates of Industrial Production at the national level are, however available and shown below:—

1993-94	6%
1994-95	9.4%
1995-%	12%

(b) and (c) Statistics relating to industry-wise payment of income tax or its

dues are not maintained. The time and effort involved in collecting the information will be enormous which may not be commensurate with the objective sought to be achieved.

(d) Various actions prescribed under the Income-tax Act, e.g. attachment of movable and immovable properties of defaulters, prosecution, imposition of penalties, detention in prison, appointment of receiver for management of defaulter's properties are taken for recovery of the outstanding demand. Besides, various steps are taken to effect recovery of demand including grant of instalments and where issues are locked up in appeal, appellate authorities are requested to dispose of the appeals expeditiously.

Excise duty dues on Cigarette and Tobacco Manufacturing Companies

3559. SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOUTRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of cigarette and tobacco manufacturing companies have not paid a substantial amount of excise duty dues and have instead gone for an appeal against the dues;

(b) whether it is a fact that in case of some other companies, there is a conditionally that they have to deposit 50 per cent of the amount due before they are allowed to go for an appeal;

(c) if so, whether the aforesaid conditionality has been applied selectively;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken to realise the excise duty dues from the cigarette and tobacco companies?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE & MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (e) It is true that a number of cigarette and tobacco manufacturing companies have not paid substantial amounts of excise duty due from them and have instead appealed against such dues.

However, there is a provision in the Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944 that

any company (irrespective of the commodity it manufactures) preferring an appeal is required to deposit with the adjudicating authority duty demanded and/or any penalty levied pending appeal. However, the appellate authorities also have the discretion to waive the condition of pre-deposit in part or full subject to such conditions as the appellate authority may think fit so as to safeguard the interest of revenue.

Further, various measures have been taken to expedite finalisation of the cases at the stage of adjudication and appeal before the Tribunal and Courts. These include appointment of common adjudicators to exclusively deal with some of the cases which are complex, appointment of senior counsels to represent the Department and amendment to the Central Excises & Salt Act 1944 to provide for interest to be charged on delayed payment of duty.

News-Item Regarding India in Debt Trap

3560. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item in the *Hindustan Times* dated 16th August, 1996, regarding India in debt trap by the end of this decade;

(b) if so, whether Government will have to borrow more and more to meet its interest obligations;

(c) whether Government have examined the contents of the book written by Secretary of Planning Commission and former Secretary of Government of India on India's Economic Policy for the 21st Century;

(d) if so, steps taken by Government to avoid falling in debt trap; and

(e) the total interest Government will have to pay for earlier borrowings uptill now?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBRAM): (a) to (d)

Yes, Sir. Government keeps the Debt position under constant review and is seized of the relevant issues including those reported to have been mentioned in the back. Government would endeavour to restrict the fiscal deficit (additional borrowings) in 1996-97 (BE) to 5% of GDP. Government is also committed to reduce it further so as to reduce the debt burden.

(e) The total interest payments in 1996-97 (BE) are estimated at Rs. 60000 crore.

Countersign for non-listed Medicines in Ayurvedic Dispensaries

3561. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: SHRI MOHINDRA SINGH KALYAN:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued orders to the effect that the non-listed medicines in CGHS Ayurvedic dispensaries will be purchased or issued only after the Countersign by Adviser (Ayurveda & Siddha)/Deputy Adviser (Ayurveda) Medical Superintendent of CGHS Ayurvedic Hospital;

(b) whether this type of formality is not necessary in the case of listed medicines;

(c) whether Government propose to order for countersign in the case of both type of medicines or alternatively adopt the similar type of process;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) if so, by when these instructions/ orders will be issued to the CGHS Ayurvedic dispensaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) Yes Sir. These