

duty by itself is not likely to affect the indigenisation of LCV industry

(c) Such monitoring is no more in existence. However, it has been noticed that in house manufacture of components has been reduced and vehicle manufacturers mostly depend on outside local supply of components.

Bogus LTC claims by RBI Staff

2655. SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VI-RJMBI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item "Bogus LTC claims by RBI staff detected" which appeared in the Indian Express (Madras) on 30th December, 1992;

(b) if so, whether Government have verified all such claims of RBI staff and officers and doubtful claims have been checked or not;

(c) if so, what is the total amount of fraud detected so far;

(d) how many officials and staff were placed under suspension pending enquiry;

(e) whether any steps have been initiated to recover the false claims from the concerned persons if so, the amount to be recovered; and

(f) what steps are being taken to prevent such large scale fraud by Government employees and officials in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and to the extent available, will be laid on the Table of the House.

Over invoicing by drug companies

2656. SHRI. J. P. JAVALI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the drug manufacturing companies which are alleged to have imported raw materials in excess of the quantities required for the manufacture of export goods during the year 1991-92 and 1992-93;

(b) the details of the drug companies which furnished incomplete information resulting in excess payment of dues drawn back during the above period;

(c) the amount of duty drawn back claimed by the above companies during the above period and the payment made against each claim alongwith the details of over payment made companywise;

(d) the amount recovered so far;

(e) whether the Directorate of Endorsement has completed the alleged overvaluation of imports of raw-materials in respect of some drug companies;

(f) if so, what are the details thereof and the details of such companies; and

(g) the action taken against the officials of his Ministry who encourage such irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) During the year 1991-92 and 1992-93, no such case of excess import of raw materials by drug manufacturing companies has come to the notice of the Government

(b) to (d) Does not arise, in view of (a) above.

(e) and (f) The information is being collected and it will be laid on the Table of the House.

(g) Does not arise in view of answer against (b) to (d)

Demand for reducing excise duty on T.V. components

2657. SHRI MOHINDRA SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of Indian Televisions are higher than the prices of TV manufactured by multi national companies;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Indian Televisions manufacturers have demanded for reducing the excise duty and customs duty on T. V. apparatus to enable them to compete with the prices of T.V. manufactured by multi national companies; and

(c) if so, what is Government's response to this demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANBRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c) Pricing of Television sets manufactured in the country is determined by various market forces. Considering the representations received from different associations, import duty rates on specified items of raw materials, piece parts and electronic components were reduced from the levels of 40 per cent, 60 per cent and 80 per cent to 20 per cent, 35 per cent and 50 per cent respectively in the Budget for 1993-94. Excise duty rates on colour T.Vs. were also reduced from rates varying from Rs. 1925 to Rs. 4785 per set to rates varying from Rs. 1250 to Rs. 2200 per set. These measures were taken to help the domestic T.V. industry. No representation has been received after the Budget for 1993-94 from Indian T.V. Manufacturers for reducing the excise and customs duty on T.V. apparatus to enable them to compete with the prices of T. V. manufactured by multinational companies. Hence reply to part (c) of the question does not arise.

Unfair means adopted by private transport finance companies

2658. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that private Transport Finance Companies are charging exorbitant rate of interest from the public;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these companies are using unfair means to harass the borrowers on one pretext or other and some time confiscate the vehicle and money deposited by the borrower;

(c) whether Government will consider to ban these private transport finance companies;

(d) if so, by when these companies will be banned; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b) The directions issued by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to hire purchase finance companies regulate their deposit-taking activities only. The rate of interest for finance obtained by transport operators/hirers from hire purchase finance companies are regulated by the contracts entered into by the parties. The disputes in regard to any of the terms of contractors between the parties are to be therefore, settled mutually.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Bungling in duty free imports

2659. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a massive revenue leakage through faulty input-output norms under