

(b) if so, what is the estimated unit number of S. S. I. Units which are unregistered and which can not avail of excise concession; and

(c) what are reasons for not extending the benefit to the unregistered ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) :

(a) No, Sir. Full exemption from excise duty is available to unregistered small scale units for first clearances upto Rs. 10 lakhs, beyond which they are required to pay normal rate of excise duty. Registered SSI Units are given full exemption from excise duty for clearances upto Rs. 30 lakhs and for further clearances upto Rs. 75 lakhs, concessional rates of duty have been provided.

(b) The number of unregistered small scale units in the country in the year 1991-92 has been estimated to be of the order of 5.84 lakhs. The number of small scale units out of these 5.84 lakhs units, producing dutiable goods above Rs. 10 lakhs and not registered is not available. The time and labour involved in the compilation of the data will not be commensurate with the result likely to be achieved. When such units are detected action under anti-evasion provisions for realisation of central excise duty is taken.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Vacant Posts of Chairman and Executive Directors of Banks

936. SHRI SOMAPPA R. BOMAI :
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of vacancies of Chairman and Executive Directors of the Nationalised Banks since 1990-91;

(b) what was the number of vacancies not filled up and what are the reasons for the same;

(c) what is the policy of Government in appointing Chairmen and Executive Directors in Nationalised banks and financial institutions;

(d) whether eligible persons are not available in the banking section; and

(e) what are the reasons that outsiders and more so, IAS Officers are appointed for the posts of Chairmen of the bank ?

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) Out of 39 vacancies of Chairmen and Managing Directors and Executive Directors of the Nationalised Banks that arose since 1-4-1990, 25 have been filled up with the remaining 14 yet to be filled up. Government have already initiated necessary steps to fill up these vacancies.

(c) to (e) The wholetime directors on the boards of the public sector banks and financial institutions are appointed in accordance with the provisions contained in the relevant statutes. For the purpose of making recommendations to the Government on the appointment of wholetime directors on the boards of public sector banks and financial institutions an Appointments Board has been constituted under the chairmanship of Governor, Reserve Bank of India. The Board meets periodically and makes recommendations for filling up of vacancies that arise from time to time. While making recommendations, the Board takes into account the track records of the executives, their length of service, performance of the bank in which they are serving, etc. The possibility of inter-bank shifting of the executives is also considered by the Board, wherever necessary. For the purpose of appointment of Executive Directors in nationalised banks, a panel is prepared by a sub-committee of the Appointments Board after interviewing eligible General Managers in nationalised

banks and Chief General Managers in Associate Banks of State Bank of India. Recommendations are made by the Board from out of the panel. However in exceptional cases, particularly when suitable executives are not available from the banking system, Government do appoint officers belonging to the IAS and other services as Chairman and Managing Director of banks, keeping in view the special circumstances obtaining in such banks.

Recovery of Bad and Doubtful Advances of Banks

937. SHRI TRILOKINATH CHATURVEDI :

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the estimated amount of bad and doubtful advances made by the nationalised banks as on the 31st March, 1993;

(b) in what manner Government propose to deal with the matter and whether Government propose to revamp the working of all nationalised banks; and

(c) if so, whether the details in this regard have been worked out ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) :

(a) In accordance with the statutes governing the nationalised banks as also in terms of the practices and usages customary amongst bankers, the banks do not disclose the quantum of bad and doubtful debts.

(b) and (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have issued detailed guidelines to all public sector banks on write off of bad debts/losses and compromises with

debtors/borrowers. These guidelines identify the issues to be taken into consideration before any amount is written off by the authorities. These guidelines stipulate inter-alia that the authority which had sanctioned the advance in question should not write off the same. The guidelines also provide that all possible steps should be taken for recovery of the dues. Government has also decided to set up Special Tribunals for recovery of dues of banks and financial institutions.

938. [Transferred to 13th May, 1993]

Steps to Check Hawala Trade

939. SYED SIBTEY RAZI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that despite attractive policies of Government such as full convertibility of rupee, Gold Bond Scheme and import of Silver and Gold scheme, hawala trade has been operating without showing any sign of decline;

(b) if so, what are the reasons identified for failure to check hawala trade ;

(c) what is the estimated hawala trade carried out annually; and

(d) what changes in the rules & regulations in this regard are contemplated by Government to check such transactions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) :

(a) to (d) Several indicators like intelligence reports, number of cases detected, spread between the official and market exchange rates point towards a decline in Hawala trade.

It is difficult to estimate the quantum of Hawala trade, it being a clandestine operation. Apart from enforcement of existing laws and rules, Government has