

apparatus and appliances, as are ordinarily required in his profession upto a value limit of Rs. 15,000/-. However, exemption shall apply only to items used by carpenters, plumbers, welders, masons and the like and items of common use shall not be allowed under this provision.

Persons transferring their residence to India on returning to India on termination of their work after staying abroad for over a year shall be allowed to import Fax Machine at the concessional rate of customs duty on 25 percent ad valorem.

In terms of rule 4A of the Baggage Rules, 1978 persons returning to India on termination of their work after staying abroad for over a year can import their personal effects and household articles upto an aggregate value of Rs. 3,000/- free of duty (excluding 14 items of consumer durables which attract duty of 25 per cent ad valorem) subject to certain conditions, provided their stay abroad is not less than 365 days and they have not availed short visit to India during the aforesaid period in excess of 45 days. Such persons shall now be eligible for this concession if they stayed abroad for atleast 365 days in the two years immediately preceding the date of their arrival in India irrespective of the visits to India during the aforesaid period of two years.

A person transferring his residence to India is eligible to import not more than one unit each of 14 consumer durables at a concessional rate of 25 percent ad valorem subject to the condition that only one member of family would be eligible for this concession. The Government have now relaxed this condition to the extent that the concession can be availed by more than one member of the family so long as not more than one unit of each of the 14 consumer durables is imported per family.

The Government have also removed the earlier restrictions that goods imported at baggage would not be sold or displayed in a shop or gifted or otherwise parted with.

(c) and (d) In terms of the Tourist Baggage Rules, 1978, a tourist is entitled to import certain articles (such as cameras, C. D. Players, music system etc.) which are required by him during his stay in India on the condition that the same would be re-exported within six months. This period of six months can be extended by the Collector or the Central Board of Excise and Customs depending upon the period for which extension is required. It has some time been noticed that tourists (NRIs and others) are put to difficulties when they are leaving India after a stay of more than six months and when they have not applied for extension to the Collector or the Board. The Government have now delegated the power to grant extension of the period upto six months to the Assistant Collector at the airport itself so that the visiting tourists are not put to any hardship.

LIC scheme for female child

883. SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR YADAV (RAV): Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Life Insurance Corporation of India has launched two insurance schemes for the female child, recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the nature of risk covered thereunder and the benefits accruing therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) LIC has launched only one new insurance plan for female children with effect from 1-11-1992.

(b) The name of the plan is 'Jeevan Sukanya' and it is issued on the lives of female children aged between one year (completed) and 12 years (completed). The risk on the female life assured will commence either two years after the date of commencement of the policy or from the policy anniversary

on or immediately after attainment of 7 years of age whichever is later. The period starting from the date of commencement of the policy to the commencement of risk is known as waiting period.

(c) The details of benefits and the nature of risks covered under the plan are as follows:—

(1) In case of death of the female life assured during the waiting period the premium paid excluding the Waiver benefit will be refunded and the contract will come to an end.

(2) In case of death of the female life assured after the waiting period but before the date of maturity the full sum assured alongwith vested bonuses will be paid and the contract will come to an end.

(3) On the female life assured surviving upto the premium paying term, the full sum assured will be paid as survival benefit. The policy will however continue to participate in profits and the risk cover for full sum assured will continue upto the end of policy term even after payment of survival benefit.

(4) On the female life assured surviving upto the date of maturity only the vested bonus will be payable as the sum assured is already paid as survival benefit.

(5) After marriage of life assured the risk cover will be extended also to the life of her husband subject, however, to certain conditions. In case the husband predeceases the wife (before date of maturity then the full sum assured (without bonus) will be paid. The contract will not however, come to an end and the risk cover on the female life assured will continue and the policy will also continue to participate in profits.

Foreign Investment in the Country

884. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the foreign investment in India in the wake of Government's

liberalised economic policy and liberalisation of regulations relating to foreign investments during the period from September, 1992 to November, 1992 and in January, 1993 with details thereof; and

(b) what are the details of withdrawal of foreign investment from India, if any during December, 1992 and January, 1993?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR ABRAR AHMED): (a) The details of foreign equity investments approved during the relevant months are as under:—

Months	Amount of total Equity (Rs. in millions)
September, 1992	1009.3
October, 1992	3107.8
November, 1992	2717.3
January, 1993	Æ 8158.4

(b) No instances of disinvestment by foreign investors during December, 1992 and January, 1993 have come to the notice of the Government.

राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण बैंक की स्थापना

885. श्री सोम पाल : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बातने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान ग्रामीण बैंक कर्मचारी एसोसिएशन द्वारा दी गई इस आशय की सूचना की ओर दिलाया गया है कि राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण बैंक की स्थापना नहीं किये जाने की दशा में कर्मचारी हड़ताल कर देंगे;

(ख) यदि हां, तो राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण बैंक की स्थापना करने के लिये सरकार ने 28 फरवरी, 1993 तक क्या कार्यवाही की है ;