

Shifting of SBI departments

2586. SHRI MD. SALIM:
SHRIMATI SARALA
MAHESHWARI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that SBI Management has shifted their Inspection and Audit Department from Bombay to Hyderabad in 1987;

(b) if so, whether SBI Management is also considering to shift their Rupee Travellers Cheque work, Inter Branch Reconciliation work etc., from Bombay to Calcutta;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) State Bank of India does not have any plan to shift rupee traveller cheque work, inter-branch reconciliation work etc. from Bombay to Calcutta. The decision to shift any department is taken by the SBI Management according to their perception of the need for the same.

Foreign Exchange received by D'Silva Group of Companies

2587. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that D'silva Group of companies, Nagoa, Verna, Salcette, Goa: have received huge payments in foreign exchange from Ms. Locomotive of Holland during the last 5 years on account of various types of services rendered to them; and

(b) if so, what are the complete details of the payments received and whether the said payments are in accordance of the guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India?

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) To the extent feasible the requisite information is being collected by the Reserve Bank of India and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Target for tax collections

2588. SHRI IQBAL SINGH:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what had been the target set up by Government for collection of major taxes during 1991-92 and 1992-93;

(b) what are the achievements made so far in the collection of major taxes; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to realise arrears and also to expedite collection of corporate taxes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASEKHAR MURTHY): (a) The revised budget estimate of the four major taxes of the Central Government, namely income tax, corporation tax, customs duties and central excise duties is Rs. 64679 crores in 1991-92, Rs. 75000 1992-93.

(b) The revenue realisation from the major taxes is Rs. 84780 crores during 1991-92 and Rs. 60879 crores during 1.4.1992 to 28.12.1992.

(c) Appropriate administrative, legal and other measures are taken

from time to time to realise arrears and to maximise collection of revenue, including corporate taxes.

Exemption from income tax on ex-gratia payments

2589. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:

SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the ex-gratia payments received by public sector employees on voluntary retirement scheme are exempted from payment of income tax;

(b) if so, what are the details of the notifications/circulars in this regard;

(c) whether Government are aware that certain public sector authorities such as Madras Port Trust, Vishakhapatnam Port Trust, etc. are withholding 20 to 50 per cent of such payments made to its employees opted for retirement under the scheme probably by the instructions of the Income Tax Commissioners of the concerned States; and

(d) if so, what steps are taken to see that the ex-gratia payments are not withheld for the tax purposes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHADRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) Section 10(10C) of the Income-tax Act provides that any amount received by an employee of a public sector company or of any other company at the time of his voluntary retirement in accordance with any scheme or schemes of voluntary retirement drawn up by the said company is exempt from tax subject to the scheme being framed in accordance with prescribed guidelines and fulfilling other conditions specified in the section.

(c) and (d) The employees of Port Trusts retiring under the Voluntary Retirement Schemes are not covered under the existing provisions of section 10(10C) of the Act. However, the Finance Bill, 1993, seeks to extend the scope of exemption from income-tax under Section 10(10C) to employees of an authority established under a Central, State or Provincial Act or of a local authority. The payment should be in pursuance of a Voluntary Retirement Scheme conforming to the prescribed guidelines and subject to a limit of Rs. 5 lakhs in the case of each employee. The proposal is to amend the provisions with effect from assessment year 1993-94. Therefore, employees of the Port Trusts who have received any sums under a Voluntary Retirement Scheme conforming to the prescribed guidelines on or after 1.4.1992 will be eligible to claim exemption once the Finance Bill becomes an Act.

Impact of FERA amendments

2590. SHRI MATANG SING: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that FERA amendment, recently, announced has significantly contributed in accelerating the process of economic liberalisation.

(b) if so, what are the details of the responses received from the foreign investors, so far;

(c) latest result of the review of foreign investment undertaken in this regard; and

(d) further changes proposed under consideration, if any?

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