

Sanctioning of Loans by Nationalised Banks

3780. PROF. VIJAYA KUMAR MALHOTRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have advised the nationalised banks not to advance/loans, where its recovery is doubtful ;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the effect thereof on the weaker sections of society ;

(c) whether the staff of the banks harass people and use underhand tactics in sanctioning of loans ; and

(d) if so, how many such cases have come to Government's notice and the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) and (b) Banks grant advances for viable ventures after assessing their need-based credit requirements. However, banks exercise their own judgement in granting loans/advances taking into account, *inter alia*, their realisability. Banks also frame schemes on their own to assist weaker sections of the society by way of providing loans for productive ventures. Performance of public sector banks in extending credit assistance to weaker sections is reviewed by the Government as well as by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) periodically and suitable steps are taken to correct deficiencies noticed, if any.

(c) and (d) Loan applications are received by bank branches directly from applicants or through State sponsored agencies and are sanctioned accordingly. Action against officials is taken by banks in accordance with the laid down rules and procedures for wilful neglect, non-observance of instructions or malpractice etc. The reporting system of banks does not generate information on the number of cases/employees against whom action has been taken or contemplated for various categories of charges.

Reduction of Rate of Interest on World Bank Loan

3781. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Maharashtra Government has urged the Union Government to reduce the rate of interest levied on the loan component of the World Bank credit for rehabilitation of earthquake affected people ;

(b) if so, present rate of interest levied on the loan and the demand of the State Government ; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) to (c) The Government of Maharashtra had requested for passing on the World Bank credit to the State Government on the same terms and conditions as it is received by the Government of India. State Governments have been advised that this may not be advantageous to them as such a system would necessitate the State Government bearing the exchange risk for repayments over the amortisation period. The proceeds of the credit would be passed on to the Government of Maharashtra in accordance with the standard arrangements for developmental assistance to the States. At present, a rate of interest of 12% is levied by Government of India on the loan component of the credit.

उत्पाद-शुल्क और सीमा-शुल्क में रियायतें

3782. प्रो० बिजय कुमार मल्होत्रा : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि चालू बजट में उत्पाद-शुल्क और सीमा-शुल्क में बहुत-सी रियायतें दी गई हैं ;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो क्या इन सभी रियायतों का लाभ उपभोक्ता तक पहुँचा है ; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो इन रियायतों का लाभ उपभोक्ता तक पहुँचना सुनिश्चित करने के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं ?

वित्त मंत्रालय से राज्य बंटो (श्री एस० बी० चन्द्रशेखर मूर्ति) : (क) जी, हाँ।

(ख) यह कहना कठिन है कि उत्पाद शुल्क की दरों में की गई कमियों का लाभ सभी मामलों में उपभोक्ताओं को प्राप्त हुआ है अथवा नहीं।

(ग) मंत्रालय के पास यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए कोई तंत्र नहीं है कि शुल्क में दी गई रियायतों का लाभ उपभोक्ताओं को प्राप्त हो।

उत्पाद शुल्क और आयात शुल्क से वी गई रियायतों का वापस लिया जाना

3783. श्री सत्यप्रकाश मालाश्रिय : क्या वित्त मंत्री 8 मार्च, 1994 को राज्य सभा में अंतरांकित प्रश्न सं० 2113 के दिये गये उत्तर को देखेंगे और यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार उत्पाद शुल्क और आयात शुल्क में कटौती के रूप में दी गई रियायतों का लाभ ग्रामीण जनता/साधारण उपभोक्ता तक न पहुँचने की स्थिति में इन रियायतों को वापस लेने अथवा कोई अन्य कार्यवाही करने का विचार रखती है; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो उसका ब्योरा क्या है, और यदि नहीं तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

वित्त मंत्रालय से राज्य बंटो (श्री एस० बी० चन्द्रशेखर मूर्ति) : (क) इस समय ऐसा कोई प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचारधीन नहीं है। तथापि 1994-95 के बजट को तैयार करने के कार्य के एक भाग के रूप में सम्पूर्ण शुल्क ढाँचे की समीक्षा की गई थी।

(ख) निविष्टि लागत में कमी करने, निर्यात बढ़ाने, लघु उद्योग क्षेत्र की सुरक्षा करने और उद्योग की प्रतिस्पर्धा बढ़ाने आदि जैसे विभिन्न उद्देश्यों को प्राप्त करने हेतु शुल्कों में रियायतें मन्जूर की जाती हैं। तथापि, सरकार अधिकांश निमित्त उत्पादों पर मूल्य नियंत्रण लागू नहीं करती है। बाजार मूल्य सामान्यतया विविध कारकों द्वारा निर्धारित होते हैं। मंत्रालय के पास यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए कोई तंत्र नहीं है कि शुल्क रियायतों के लाभ उपभोक्ताओं को प्राप्त हुए हैं या नहीं।

Suspension of Negotiations with IMF for Obtaining Loan

3784. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether negotiations with International Monetary Fund over the proposed massive loan to meet the exceptional financial requirements have been suspended;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are not keen to negotiate due to comfortable foreign exchange position; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to remove the difficulties so that IMF loan is available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Some preliminary discussions had taken place for a possible assistance from the International Monetary Fund. Meanwhile on an assessment of our exceptional financing requirements in view of the significant improvement in our foreign exchange reserves, the Government have decided not to take IMF assistance at present. As regards taking recourse to IMF assistance at a future date, a view will be taken depending on our external payments position.

Setting up of Currency Printing Presses

3785. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Questions 913 and 2611 given in the Rajya Sabha on 1st and 15th March, 1994 and state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Switzerland, Germany and Britain, three top European aid givers to India, have charged RBI of attempting to blackmail Giori a Swiss Company with proved technology, and favouring the Japanese firm Komori in the prestigious Rs. 1000 Cr. New Note Press Project; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and how Government propose to solve this embroil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.