

(b) Under the provisions of section 80G of the Income tax Act, 100% deduction is allowed to donations made to certain funds of national importance or to certain State funds for disaster management and medical relief to the poor. Other funds enjoy concession of 50% deduction, for which the foundation set up by the Andhra Pradesh Cultural Council would also be eligible.

States share in small savings

***207. SHRI S. NIRAIKULATHAN :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Reddy Commission has recommended that the entire amount collected from a State under small savings be given to that State itself instead of giving only 80 per cent of the collection;

(b) if so, whether the recommendation has been accepted; and

(c) by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) The Expert Committee on administered interest rates and other related issues, set up under the chairmanship of Dr. Y. V. Reddy, Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank of India has, inter-alia, recommended arrangements, for transfer of entire net proceeds under small savings schemes to the concerned State Governments.

(b) and (c) The Committee has also suggested "a wider debate on various issues involving all stakeholders and wider consultation (particularly with the States) in respect of the Committee's recommendations regarding small savings". The report has, accordingly, been placed on the official website of the Ministry of Finance to invite response from the public and the State Governments. The Committee's Report will provide an input into Government's approach on this subject.

Talks with Employees Association by GIPSA

***208. SHRI R. SARATH KUMAR:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether General Insurance Public Sector Association of India (GIPSA) is a Regulatory Authority and its decisions are binding on Public Sector Insurance Companies;

(b) if so, the details of its scope and terms of office;

(c) whether GIPSA has called Employees Unions/Associations for talks in Chennai on various dates in the last nine months;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the decisions taken during the rounds of talk; and

(e) the details of expenditure incurred on the meetings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) General Insurers' (Public Sector) Association of India (GIPSA) is a voluntary association of public sector general insurance companies. The common problems, concerns and issues of the four companies are discussed and debated in the GIPSA forum. GIPSA is not a regulatory authority and its decisions are not binding on public sector insurance companies.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. GIPSA had invited Development Officers' Associations and Employees'/Officers' Associations for discussion on the role of Development Officers, re-structuring of offices. Retraining and deployment, transfer policy and mobility, customer services, working hours and days etc. These discussions provide an input for decisions on relevant issues by the Public Sector Insurance Companies.

(e) Expenditure incurred for organising these meetings was Rs. 10.65 lacs.

Restoration of damaged portion of Charminar

*209. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem which appeared in the Hindu, Delhi, dated the 29th August, 2001, under the caption, "ASI repair work causes damage to Charminar";

(b) if so, the details of damage caused to Charminar due to scaffolding etc.; and

(c) the fresh steps taken / proposed to be taken by Government to restore the damaged portion of the Charminar at the earliest?