

and jewellery automobile, transport and IT/BPO, it was observed that about half a million workers have lost their jobs during the quarter October-December, 2008. The major impact of the slowdown was observed in the export oriented units. The decline in employment observed in gems and jewellery, transport and automobiles was 8.58 percent, 4.03 percent and 2.42 percent respectively. In a similar survey conducted by Labour Bureau covering 3192 units in 21 centres across 11 states/UTs relating to sectors like textiles and apparel, handloom/powerloom, leather, metals, gems and jewellery, automobiles, transport and IT/BPO, it was observed that the employment in selected sectors has increased by a quarter million during the January – March 2009 period. The sectors registering increase in employment during January-March, 2009 period are gems and jewellery, textiles, IT-BPO, handloom/powerloom and automobiles. However, decline in employment during January-March 2009, has been observed in leather, metals and transport. The Department of Commerce has separately conducted some surveys which indicate job losses as under:

S. No.	Period of Survey	Job losses (Direct and indirect) in persons
1.	August 2008-October 2008	65,507
2.	August 2008-16-01-09	1,09,513
3.	August 2008-9-02-09	1,17,602
4.	August 2008-28-02-09	1,19,159

The Government has provided three fiscal stimulus packages in the form of tax relief to boost demand and increased expenditure on public projects to create employment and public assets. The Government has also taken measures like the Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojana and skill upgradation training programmes, to mitigate the adverse impact of economic slowdown on employment. The Government is constantly monitoring and evaluating the economic situation for taking policy measures to restore the growth dynamics of the economy.

Software Technology Parks

1822. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export-oriented firms set up in Government-run software Technology Parks, are enjoying a tax-free status;

(b) if so, whether this tax-free status to such firms is adversely affecting the commercial viability of private sector industry;

(c) whether Government is thinking of mitigating the effect of global recession in this prime market of information technology; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The details are as under:

In the Finance Bill 2009-2010 Government has proposed:

- (i) Extension of sunset clause for deduction in respect of export profits under section 10A of the Income Tax Act by one more year till 31.03.2011.
- (ii) Weighted deduction of 150% on expenditure incurred for in-house R and D.
- (iii) Safe harbour approach being formulated for transfer pricing related issues.

Interest charged on car loans by SBI

†1823. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Bank of India (SBI) has decided to charge interest on car loans at 8 per cent;

(b) if so, when this decision was taken;

(c) whether it is proposed to decrease the interest rate on other loans also; and

(d) if so, the details of other proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):

(a) Yes, Sir. For car loans, the State Bank of India (SBI) has introduced interest rate of 8% per annum fixed for the 1st year and 10% per annum fixed rate for the 2nd and the 3rd years. From the 4th year, the interest rate will be reset to the normal car loan rates.

(b) The decision to reduce the rate was taken on 21.06.2009 and was implemented from 01.07.2009.

(c) and (d) State Bank Advance Rate (SBAR) has been revised downwards by 50 bps from 12.25% p.a. to 11.75% p.a. with effect from the 29th June, 2009. The revised rates SBAR is applicable to all new as well as existing advances, including existing term loans (other than existing fixed interest rate loans). In addition, interest rates have been reduced for home loans @ 8% per annum fixed for the first year. The SBI is also offering reduced interest rates on SME loans.

Mandate of the SIU

1824. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:

SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.