

these permit people to become citizens of India while retaining citizenship of the U.K. and hold British passports;

(b) if so, in what manner the rules of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act apply to such individuals holding dual citizenship; and

(c) what are the details of the circumstances permitting dual citizenship to Indian citizens?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir. There is no provision in the Citizenship Act, 1955 or the Rules made thereunder, namely the Citizenship Rules, 1956 for the grant of dual citizenship. Under our Citizenship law, any citizen of India will cease to be a citizen of India if he voluntarily acquires the citizenship of another country.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Conversion of debentures of Reliance Industries Ltd.

1549. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the criteria adopted in not allowing the conversion of 'E' and 'F' series non-convertible Debentures of Reliance Industries Limited in 1986;

(b) what were the details of guidelines prevailing in 1986 and at present; and

(c) what are the reasons for not approving the proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a)

to (c) As per guidelines, for fresh issue of debentures by public limited companies, issued on 15-9-84, the companies had the option of getting, the non-convertible debentures or non-convertible portion of convertible debentures, converted into equity fully with the approval of and at such price as may be determined by the Controller of Capital Issues. A debentureholder, would, however, be free not to exercise this right. It was noted that this policy was leading to undue speculation in the debentures of certain companies, on the expectation of a possible conversion at some future date, and this affected the interest of general investors as they were neither aware of the clear intention of the companies regarding conversion nor the view the Government would take on such proposals. With a view to setting such doubts and speculation at rest, a decision was taken, on 10-6-86 not to permit conversion of non-convertible debentures and the non-convertible portion of partially convertible debentures into equity shares, unless such permission was obtained at the time of issue of such debentures. In view of this policy, M/s. Reliance Industries Ltd. were not allowed to convert the non-convertible portion of 'E' Series Debentures and 'F' Series non-convertible Debentures.

Excise Duty on Indigenous Synthetic Fabrics

1550. CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that excise duty on indigenous synthetic fabrics is being estimated on the basis of retail price of synthetic fabrics;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government charge excise duty on ex-factory price;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for adopting dual policy; and

(d) whether it is a fact that excise rate on polyester sarees, shirting and suiting is 48 per cent to 70 per cent on ex-factory price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (c) As per central excise law, excise duty in respect of goods chargeable on ad valorem basis is levied on the wholesale price of the goods as determined under section 4 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944, or the rules made thereunder. As far as synthetic fabrics are concerned, excise duty is levied at specific rates and, therefore, the question of assessing duty on the basis of retail price does not arise.

(d) The excise duty rates on polyester fabrics depend upon the value, weight, width, composition and the sector producing or processing the fabrics. The rates of duty on woven fabrics of polyester vary from nil to Rs. 30 per sq. metre depending upon the factors mentioned above.

Jail Visitors Board's visit to Tihar jail

1551. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Jail Visitors Board visited the Mental Cell of Tihar Jail recently;

(b) whether the members of the Board came across cases where the inmates had been detained therefor years together despite the fact that they had been awarded only minor sentences of imprisonment;

(c) what are the details of the Board's observations; and

(d) what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) Yes, Sir. A meeting of the Board of visitors was held on 26-2-88 at Mental Ward, Central Jail Tihar, New Delhi.

(b) and (c) The members of the Board examined 8 prisoners of the Mental Ward who were lodged in the Central Jail, Tihar at different points of time. 5 patients had been found to be fit for discharge and the members of the Board recommended that after their legal release from the Jail,

they should be sent to their homes or some welfare Institutions. The remaining 3 patients were not found fit for discharge and the members recommended that after their legal discharge, they should be shifted to Hospital for Mental Diseases, Shahdara.

(d) Out of the 5 prisoners, who had been recommended to be sent to their Homes/Social Welfare institutions, 4 have been released from the jail and have been sent to the Poor House, Kingsway Camp, Delhi, as they were not in a position to state the place where they would like to go. The remaining one prisoner, namely Shri Munshi Pasi s/o Shri Bandhu Pasi had showed impulsive behaviour after 26-2-88 when his discharge was recommended by the members of the Board and therefore, he has been sent to Hospital for Mental Diseases, Shahdara alongwith the other 3 patients who had been recommended by the members of the Board for sending to HMD Shahdara for medical treatment/care.

Payment to M/s. Snamprogetti

1552. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s. Snamprogetti has been paid in Deutsche Mark for technology know-how instead of Lira, whereas Italian credit comes only in Lira; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Merger of Scindia Steam Navigation Company with Essar

1553. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Expert Panel has been set up to consider the merger of the Scindia Steam Navigation Company Limited with Essar;