

(c) -whether any opportunity was provided to all these retired employees to question as to what are the charges against them for which they have been punished?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) and (b) Only one Inspector (Senior Grade) of Chittoor Range-I, Nellore Division has been retired in August, 1986 under rule 48 of the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972. Under this rule, the appointing authority may retire a Government servant in the public interest after he has completed 30 years' qualifying service.

(c) Premature retirement under this rule is not a punishment and no opportunity to show cause against the proposed action of premature retirement is required to be given under the rules to the officer concerned.

Financial irregularities committed by M/s. Godfrey Phillips (India) Ltd.

2003. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s. Godfrey Phillips (India) Ltd., a cigarette manufacturing company of Bombay has been evading excise duty;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the above mentioned Company has also been violating the Foreign Exchange Regulations Act;

(c) what is the amount of excise duty and income tax outstanding against the Company at present; and

(d) what steps Government have taken to realise the amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a)

to (d) The information to the extent possible is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Request for removal of imported adhesive from the list of goods permitted for import

2004. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:-

(a) whether Government have received any representation to the effect that imported self-adhesive tapes be removed from the list of goods permitted for import under REP licences; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) It is presumed that the reference is to self-adhesive tapes. Representations have been received for disallowing import of self-adhesive tapes against REP licences.

(b) Limited quantities of self-adhesive tapes are permitted for import for augmenting export of certain products. No change in the policy is considered necessary for the present.

Problems faced by units in Madras Export Processing Zone in securing loans

2005. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that the nationalised banks and Governmental financial institutions are adopting a delaying tactics in the matter of extending term loans to the units licenced to come up in the Madras Export Processing Zone;

(b) if so, how many units are handicapped for want of financial help

from the banks and financial institutions; and

(c) whether Government propose to empower the Development Commissioner to act as a single clearance agency inclusive of finance through the EXIM Bank of India, or any other source?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no proposal to empower the Development Commissioner of the Export Processing Zone to act as a clearance agency for securing finance through banks. Loans are extended by banks and financial institutions only according to their duly constituted procedures.

Setting up of diamond cutting factories in China

2006. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two leading Indian diamond export houses are setting up diamond cutting factories in China;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) what is the quantum of export of these companies during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) whether some other diamond exporters are also planning to set up diamond factories in other countries and if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether this move is likely to pose a threat to the Indian diamond exports in the world diamond markets; and

(f) if so, what is the reaction of Government in this regard;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) The Government is not aware of any Indian diamond export houses setting up diamond cutting factories in China.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) The Government is not aware of any move on the part of Indian diamond exporters to set up diamond processing factories in other countries.

(e) and (f) If any such move materialises and diamond processing units come up in other countries, it will become necessary to examine its implications for and impact on Indian diamond processing industry.

Condition in asbestos industry

2007. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: SHRI TALARI MANOHAR:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether asbestos industry continues to operate as before without due care of their workers' health;

(b) whether it is a fact that despite the declaration of asbestos industry as a dangerous process under Section 87 of the Factories Act, 1948 several State Governments have not so far taken necessary steps in their states and if so, the details of such States; and

((c) whether the Report of the Committee on Health Hazards is a secret document under the Official Secrets Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) Asbestos factories are covered under the Factories Act, 1948 and the Rules framed thereunder by the