

There is no proposal as such to cut the quantum of subsidy. It is, however, the policy of the Government to contain the level of subsidies to the extent possible keeping in view the social and economic objectives.

Switch Trading in Tea by the USSR

*136. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian tea imported by the Soviet Union is re-sold by it to hard currency countries especially to Western European countries; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for which India is not exporting tea to those countries directly? ...

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA):

(a) and (b) Government is not aware of any case where tea exported by India to the Soviet Union has been re-sold to any hard currency countries especially to West European Countries.

Maharashtra Cooperative Housing Finance Society Limited

*137. DR. M. M. S. SIDDHU;
DR. SHANTI G. PATEL;

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Maharashtra Co-operative Housing Finance Society Limited has brought to the notice of Government its financial difficulties arising out of the change in the policy of the Life Insurance Corporation;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to meet the demands of the Maharashtra Co-operative Housing Finance Society Limited?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (c) The main point urged in the representation dated 22nd October 1982, addressed by the Maharashtra Co-operative Housing Finance Society Ltd. to Government is that the LIC may be prevailed upon to grant the maximum amount of loan against the Society's request for loan of Rs. 25 crores during 1982-83.

In view of various other pressing demands on the LIC's funds, its assistance to apex co-operative housing finance societies is necessarily limited. For the year 1982-83, the LIC has earmarked Rs. 75 crores for these societies, numbering eighteen, all over the country. Out of this amount, the LIC has allocated an amount of Rs. 10 crores to the Maharashtra Society.

Failure of Lead Bank Schemes

*138. SHRI N. P. CHENGALRAYA NAIDU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the implementation of the Lead Bank Scheme under the 20-Point Programme has proved to be a failure;

(b) if so, what are the main reasons therefor;

(c) whether the officials involved in the implementation of the Scheme have been found responsible for its failure; and

(d) if so, what action Government have taken against them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (d) The Lead Bank Scheme, being implemented since the beginning of 1970, is essentially a framework in-

corporating the concept of 'area approach' to the task of banking development and securing increased involvement of the commercial banks in development of the economy at district level. A coordinated action on the part of all the banks operating in a district together with State agencies concerned with developmental programme to increase the flow of credit to credit supported economically viable productive activity is the essence of the Scheme. To achieve this objective coordination forums have been created at the district level. Lead Banks have strengthened their administrative infrastructure in their lead districts. Other banks have also designated District Coordinators to facilitate liaison. Reserve Bank of India have designated specific officers (Lead District Officers) to closely oversee the implementation of the Scheme in specific districts allotted to them, to facilitate increased loaning. District Credit Plans are being prepared by the Lead Banks and are being implemented by commercial banks and cooperative banks jointly.

In view of the foregoing it would not be correct to say that the Lead Bank Scheme has proved to be a failure, although it is recognised that conceptually the Scheme has greater potential. Efforts are being made to achieve this potential through the strengthening of the Coordination machinery, reorienting the attitudes of the personnel towards the concept of joint effort, improving the quality of credit planning, establishing a linkage between district credit planning and performance budgeting and evolving a functional system of monitoring and evaluation.

Spy Network operating in Air Headquarters

*139. SHRI SATYAPAL MALIK:

SHRI RAMCHANDRA
BHARADWAJ:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Air Force intelligence authorities have unearthed a spy network operating in the Air Headquarters in New Delhi;

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

(c) what action has been taken by Government against the persons apprehended in this connection; and

(d) what steps have been taken to check such activities?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) to (d) An incident of a junior official of Air Headquarters carrying a way certain unclassified papers from his office was detected during a surprise check, on 21-1-1983 at closing hours. He was arrested on 29-1-1983. Thorough investigations have been made by all concerned agencies and it is found that it was a case of theft of waste papers/forms etc. and that it was not a case of spying.

Arrears of Income Tax against big industrial houses

*140. SHRI RAMANAND
YADAV:

SHRIMATI AMARJIT
KAUR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large amounts of income tax arrears are pending against big industrial houses in the country for the last four year; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and what measures are proposed to be taken by Government to recover these arrears?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PATTABHI RAMA RAO): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table the House.