

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to recruit Home Guards who have put in a reasonable period of service for this purpose; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) The report of the Committee of Officers set up in the Ministry of Home Affairs had been referred to the High Power Committee set up in the Ministry of Finance under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs. The High Power Committee has not yet submitted its report.

Review of exemptions to the Multinational companies under FERA and MRTP

2437. SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state whether Government propose to review its recent policies and decisions aimed at giving unjustified exemptions to multi-national companies under FERA and MRTP etc.?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): FERA and MRTP provisions are being enforced strictly and no exemption from the provisions of the Act has been granted to any foreign company. Question of review of any such decision does not arise.

Branches of Nationalised Banks in Backward areas

2488. SHRI ADINARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the number of branches of nationalised banks that are likely to be opened in the backward areas of Andhra Pradesh during the year 1983-84 and what was their number during the year 1982-83?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): From the beginning of April 1982, the Reserve Bank of India are implementing a new branch expansion policy which aims at a banking coverage of one bank office, on an average, for 17,000 people in rural/semi-urban areas. In the case of Andhra Pradesh, to attain this level of coverage, 430 branches were required to be opened at unbanked rural and semi-urban centres in 21 districts having a poorer population coverage than the targeted level.

However, after discussions with the State Government, Reserve Bank of India have decided to allow 446 allotments/licences to the banks for branch opening at rural and semi-urban centres in 21 deficit districts and 13 branches in surplus districts in Andhra Pradesh during the three years 1982-83 to 1984-85. In addition, 57 centres have been reserved for the Regional Rural Banks proposed to be set up in Andhra Pradesh.

Raids by Income Tax authorities

2489. SHRI ADINARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of raids conducted by the Income Tax authorities during the year 1982 in Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta and Madras; and

(b) what is the quantum of black money unearthed and the number of persons apprehended in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PATTABHI RAMA RAO): (a) and (b) Income Tax Department conducted 2432 searches in Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta and Madras during the year 1982. During these searches *prima-facie* unaccounted assets totalling to Rs. 13.21 crores approximately were seized. There is no provision under the Income Tax Act for apprehending persons in the course of the searches.