

(b) if so, what are the names of the parties from whom the premises have been purchased;

(c) whether any steps have been taken to find out whether the sons of the ex-Chairman of the Bank, Shri Inderjit Singh are connected with the builders/owners of this building;

(d) what is the measurement of the area in question and what amount of monetary consideration has been paid; and

(e) whether the transaction was approved by the Board of Directors of the Bank?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) and (d) The Bank has purchased an area of about 30,962 sq. ft. in the Blank House, Rajjendra Plac[^], New Delhi. The amount paid for this area is Rs. 65.20 lakhs.

(b) The accommodation has been purchased from M/s. Anand Construction (P) Ltd.

(c) According to information available the sons of the ex-Chairman of the Bank do not appear to have interest in the above company.

(e) Yes, Sir.

Staff Training' College of Punjab and Sind Bank

251. SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the annual expenditure budget of the Staff Training College of Punjab and Sind Bank is Rs. 25 to 30 lakhs;

(b) whether it is also a fact that neither proper books of account nor proper records of inventory have ever been maintained in the College;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the accounts of the college have never been inspected by the Bank's internal auditors, by the Reserve Bank of India or by Statutory Auditors; and

(d) if so, what action is being taken against the Statutory Auditors for their lapses?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) The 1981 annual budget of staff Training College (for Officers and Managers) of Punjab & Sind Bank, New Delhi is Rs. 17.36 lakhs. The 1981 annual budget of the Regional Staff Training College (for clerical cadre) Chandigarh is Rs. 6.95 lakhs.

(b) Punjab & Sind Bank has reported that proper books of accounts and recordg of the inventory are being maintained in the College.

(c) and (d) The bank has reported that all the vouchers alongwith supporting bills with a statement relating to the expenditure of Staff Training College are regularly sent to the Accounts Department of the bank where these are checked by a qualified officer before their incorporation in the books of accounts of the Head Office. The expenditure of the College is a part of Head Office Accounts. The Accounts Department is duly inspected by Reserve Bank of India as a part of Head Office during their inspections. Similarly, Statutory Auditors have been regularly auditing the Accounts Department. The bank has also reported that the Statutory Auditors have checked the expenditure of the Staff Training College/Regional Staff Training College alongwith the expenses of the Central Office. The Auditors have not passed any adverse remarks.

Income tax and estate duty arrears of Grandson of the Nizam

252. SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the grandson of the late Nizam of Hyderabad has sought permission of the State Government of Andhra Pradesh to sell his palace in order to clear Income Tax and Estate Duty arrears;

(b) if so, what are the details of his Income Tax and Estate Duty arrears, year-wise; and

(c) what action has been taken by the authorities to realise the arrears?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA): (a) Permission of the State Government to sell the land attached to the Palace known as Chiraan situated at Jubilee Hills of Hyderabad has been sought under section 20(1) (a) and/or (b) of the Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, 1976 on behalf of Shri Mir Barkat Ali Khan one of the grandsons of Shri Osman Ali Khan, late Nizam of Hyderabad.

(b) A sum of Rs. 33 lakhs (roundly) is due from Bir Barkat Ali Khan in his individual capacity as income tax arrears. No Estate Duty is leviable against Mir Barkat Ali Khan since he is a living person. A sum of Rs. 91 lakhs (roundly) is, however, due as Estate Duty on the estate of late Shri Osman Ali Khan of which Shri Barkat Ali Khan is a legal representative. No income tax is reported to be in arrear against late Shri Osman Ali Khan.

(c) All the immovable properties have been attached but they come under the purview of Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act and competent authority has not determined the identity or extent of surplus land on the basis of declaration filed by Shri Mir Barkat Ali Khan in September, 1976. However, Shri Barkat Ali Khan has entered into an agreement on 7-12-1981 with Nassar Co-operative Housing Society Ltd., for disposal of the land at Jubilee Hills attached to Chiraan Palace subject to granting of exemption by State Government and to the condition and guidelines of the Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, 1976. Clause 3 of the agreement states that the sale consideration should be paid to Income-tax Department towards tax arrears.

Excise duty exemptions to small scale industry

253. SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken or propose to take any decision to increase the Excise Duty exemption limits for small scale industries for the 72 specified items in view of the approximately fifty per cent rise in the prices of raw materials and utility goods and higher labour cost during the last 2 years; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, whether it is a fact that small scale units are under-utilising their installed capacity which is a national loss; and what alternative steps Government propose to take so that such small scale units referred to in part (a) utilize their installed capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA): (a) and (b) Government have received representations in which it has been stated that there has been increase in the cost of production of goods covered under the general exemption scheme applicable in respect of seventy-two specified items and hence, the value limits for availing of the exemption should be increased. These representations are under consideration.

Excise Duty exemptions

254. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on certain items Central Excise Duty exemption is upto 7.5 lakhs and on certain items the exemption is upto 30 lakhs; if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons for the difference in excise exemptions;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether Govern-