

Racketeering in recirculation of condemned notes

93. SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently unearthed in Delhi a gang of racketeers who had been defrauding the Exchequer by pilfering condemned currency notes and then recirculating the same after necessary doctoring; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ZULFIQUARULLAH): (a) and (b) The Delhi Police Officials raided the house of one Note Examiner and two Mazdoors of the Reserve Bank of India and seized some punished notes of Rs. 100/- denomination. The Note Examiner and four Mazdoors who are suspected to be directly involved in the case have since been arrested by the Police. The Reserve Bank has also suspended them. A Durwan and a Punching Supervisor have also been suspended because of their negligence in duties which facilitated the pilferage of the notes from Bank's incinerator. The Police are further investigating the case.

94. [Transferred to the 19th July, 1979.]

Theft in Customs Godowns

95. SHRIMATI HAMIDA HABIB-ULLAH:

SHRI M. R. KRISHNA:

DR. (SHRIMATI) SATHIAVANI MUTHU:

SHRI E. R. KRISHNAN:

SHRI M. KADERSHAH:

SHRIMATI NOORJEHAN RAZACK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of thefts that took place in various godowns belonging to

the Customs Department during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the amount involved in each case;

(c) the value of loss due to damage or decay of the confiscated goods in the godowns during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken to reduce such losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Economy Commission on Government expenditure

96. SHRIMATI HAMIDA HABIB-ULLAH:

SHRI CHADALAVADA VENKATARAO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have appointed an economy commission on the growing Government expenditure;

(b) if so, the names of the personnel of the commission;

(c) the terms of reference of the commission; and

(d) by when the commission is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ZULFIQUARULLAH): (a) Yes, Sir. Government have set up a Commission on Public Expenditure.

(b) The composition of the Commission is as follows:—

Shri S.N. Mishra, Member, Chairman
Lok Sabha.

Shri R. R. Morarka, Member,
Rajya Sabha. Member

Pr. R. K. Amin, Member,
Lok Sabha Member

Shri B. D. Pande, formerly
Cabinet Secretary, Govern-
ment of India Member

Shri J. P. Kacker Secretary,
Department of Expendi-
ture Member

Shri V. Gauri Shankar Member
Secretary.

(c) The terms of reference of the Commission are as follows:—

(i) Identify areas in which economy can be effected without impairing efficiency or adversely affecting growth;

(ii) Identify activities which are not essential or where there is overlapping of functions between various Departments of the Government of India or between activities of the Central Government and those of the State Governments and suggest measures for phasing out or rationalising such activities;

(iii) Review the present arrangements for creation of posts and staffing and suggest measures for containing expenditure on staff within reasonable limits;

(iv) Review the existing arrangements for planning, execution, monitoring and evaluation of major projects and programmes and make suitable recommendations so that, without detracting from accountability, the decision making process is expedited, cost escalations and delays are avoided and optimum benefit is derived from the expenditure incurred;

(v) Review present arrangements for sanctioning and controlling expenditure and suggest how these arrangements can be improved to make financial control more effective and at the same time implementation of projects speedier; and

(vi) Consider any other relevant matter and make suitable recommendations.

(d) The Commission will make its report in parts so that action can be taken as and when each part of the

report is received. The Commission has been asked to submit its final report within a year.

Screening devices at international airports

97. SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to instal new screening devices at the international airport in the country in the near future; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is proposed to equip all the international airports with detection devices, such as X-Ray Baggage Inspection System, door-frame metal detectors and hand-held metal detectors.

Bank credit to sick industries

98. SHRI PRAKASH MEHROTRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the aggregate bank credit to sick industries during the current financial year; and

(b) what steps Government have taken or propose to take for the recovery of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ZULFIQUARULLAH): (a) The Reserve Bank of India collects quarterly data in respect of sick units enjoying aggregate credit limits of Rs. 1 crore and above. The latest data are available for the period ending June, 1978. As at the end of June, 1978, the outstanding advances of the scheduled commercial banks to 325 sick industrial undertakings enjoying aggregate