

places will involve considerable time and labour which may not be commensurate with the results likely to be achieved.

Information is, however, readily available in respect of cases where the outstanding income-tax demand in each case exceeds Rs. 10 lakhs or the outstanding wealth-tax or gift-tax demand in each case exceeds Rs. 25,000. According to this information, out of the aforesaid 980 companies,

(i) Income-tax demands exceeding Rs. 10 lakhs in each case were outstanding against 47 companies as on 31-3-1977 and the aggregate amount of income-tax arrears in the case of these 47 companies as on 31-3-1977 was Rs. 24.20 crores as gross arrears and Rs. 7.23 crores as net arrears;

(ii) Wealth-tax demand exceeding Rs. 25,000 in each case was outstanding against one company as on 31-3-77, involving an amount of Rs. 96,000; and

(iii) Gift-tax demand exceeding Rs. 25,000 in each case was not outstanding against any company as on 31-3-1977.

(c) The phenomenon of tax arrears is a continuing one. Even though the tax outstanding at the beginning of a financial year is collected/ reduced to a substantial extent by the year-end, the arrears again go up mainly because a part of the fresh tax demand raised during the course of the year cannot be fully collected on account of various reasons and becomes fresh arrears of tax at the end of the year.

Depending on the facts and circumstances of each case, suitable steps are taken from time to time by the Income-tax authorities concerned for recovery of tax arrears in accordance with the provisions of the Income-tax Act, 1961. These steps include:—

- (a) levy of interest for delayed payment of tax;
- (b) imposition of penalty for non-payment of tax;
- (c) attachment of monies due to the defaulter; and
- (d) attachment and sale of movable/immovable properties.

#### Complaints about export old Machinery

866. SHRIMATI SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints from certain countries regarding the export of old machinery by India; and

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BAIG): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### U.S. Economic Aid to India

867. SHRIMATI SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to state the details of the talks which he had in Washington during his recent visit to U.S.A. on the question of resumption of U.S. economic aid to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BAIG): Commerce Minister during his recent visit to USA in August, 1977 did not discuss the question of resumption of US economic aid to India with any of the leaders of the US Government whom he met.