

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) and (b) The James Raj Committee appointed to study the functioning of Public Sector Banks, submitted its Final Report to the Reserve Bank of India in April, 1978. The recommendations contained in the Report are under examination in the Reserve Bank, and it is intended to make them public along with the decisions of the Bank on them.

Study Group on Wages, Income and Prices

*200. SHRI SAT PAUL MITTAL:
SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHAN-
KAR ADIVAREKAR:
SHRIMATI PRATIBHA
SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in terms of the recommendations made by the Study Group on Wages, Income and Prices headed by Shri Boothalingam, Government propose to freeze wages of the workers and salaries of the employees, while exploring the possibility of rising the wages/incomes at higher stratas by constituting a Pay Commission; and

(b) whether Government have discussed the report with the representatives of the various categories of wage earners and employers and if so, what is their reaction to the proposals?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) No, Sir. The report is still under examination of the Government.

(b) No, Sir, but the Government proposes to consult the concerned interests before taking final decisions on the Report.

Imposition of Central Farm Tax

*201. SHRI LAKSHMANA
MAHAPATRO:
SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:
SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Study Group appointed by his Ministry has recommended the imposition of Central Farm Tax; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and what is Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) The Study Group on Wages, Incomes and Prices has recommended, inter alia, that, as part of overall incomes policy of curbing excessively high non-wage incomes, direct taxes should be extended to the agricultural sector which is largely outside the tax net at present. It has, however, not recommended imposition of a Central Farm Tax.

(b) Does not arise.

Instructions issued to S.T.C. regarding the sale of imported cars.

*202. SHRI SADASIV BAGAITKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued any instructions to the State Trading Corporation to sell cars only to those buyers who have cleared their income-tax arrears; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Sir; the Government has not issued any instructions to the State Trading Corporation to sell cars only to those buyers who have cleared their income-tax arrears.

Tourist Centres

*203. SHRI T. ANJIAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tourist centres maintained by the Central Government in the country as at the end of the last financial year; and

(b) how many of them were developed during the last financial year itself and what is the target for setting up such centres during 1978-79?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURU-SHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) and (b) The development of tourist centres and the provision of facilities for tourists is done by the Central Government in cooperation with the State Governments concerned. In addition, tourist facilities such as accommodation, transport, etc. is provided by the public and private sectors. A statement giving a list of some of these places which have been developed in the interests of cultural tourism, wildlife tourism, and sports tourism (winter sports and beach resorts) is laid on the Table of the House.

As regards the development of centres during 1973-79, Master Plans are under preparation for Aihole-Pattadakal-Badami-Hampi. Martand Awantipur-Pandrethan; Bodhgaya; Fatehpur Sikri and Brajbhumi complexes, etc. Preparation of the micro-plan for Kushinagar and Sravasti is also being taken up.

Statement

Some of the selected centres where Central Department of Tourism have provided tourist facilities

Hyderabad

Tirupathi

Nagarjunakonda/Nagarjunasagar

Bodhgaya

Rajgir

Patna

Nalanda

Delhi

Lothal

Sasangir

Sabarmati

Porbander

Gandhinagar

Gulmarg

Martand

Awantipur

Pandrethan

Patnitop

Srinagar

Aihole

Badami

Hassan

Bangalore

Bijapur

Dandel

Gauhati

Kaziranga

Cheerapunjee

Panaji

Surajkund

Panchkula

Badhkal

Pinjore

Kulu

Manali

Dalhousie

Dharamshala

Khajuraho

Mandu

Kanha

Sanchi

Elephanta

Ajanta

Ellora

Aurangabad

Borivli

Sewagram

Thekkady

Kovalam

Cochin

Konark

Bhubaneshwar

Puri

Amristar

Chilka Lake

Ludhiana

Nangal

Mount Abu

Jaipur

Udaipur

Jaisalmer

Haldighati

Bharatpur
 Mahabalipuram
 Madurai
 Tanjore
 Tiruchirapalli
 Rameshwaram
 Kanya Kumari
 Ootacamund
 Kodaikanal
 Himalayan pilgrim routes
 Kushinagar
 Agra
 Varanasi
 Corbett Park
 Nainital
 Allahabad
 Hardwar
 Malda
 Shantiniketan
 Darjeeling
 Jaldapara
 Calcutta, etc.

Prices of Tobacco

*204. SHRI SURENDRA MOHAN:
 Will the Minister of COMMERCE,
 CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERA-
 TION be pleased to state:

(a) the comparative prices of tobacco during the last three years and in 1977-78; and

(b) the reasons for the fluctuation in prices, particularly in 1977-78?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG): (a) A statement indicating comparative prices of tobacco during the last three years is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix CVI, Annexure No. 47].

(b) Surplus production and indications of weaker export demand were the main reasons for depression in prices during 1978. An additional

factor in the case of Flue Cured Virginia tobacco was lower out-turn of bright grades.

Arrears of Income-tax against persons in the Film Industry

*205. SHRI S. A. KHAJA MOHIDEEN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the film actors, actresses, producers and distributors against whom there are arrears of income-tax and what is the amount due from each of them till date; and

(b) what steps Government have taken to realise these arrears?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ZULFIQUARULLAH): (a) Complete information asked for in the Question is not readily available and its collection in respect of all film actors, actresses, producers and distributors will take considerable time and labour. However, according to information presently available about actors and actresses, there were 99 actors and actresses from each of whom income-tax demand exceeding Rs. 10,000 in each case were outstanding on 28-2-78. The gross amount of income-tax involved in these cases was Rs. 2.26 crores, the corresponding 'net arrear' being Rs. 1.63 crores. A statement showing the amount due from each of them is given in the statement. [See Appendix CVI, Annexure No. 48].

Information in respect of producers and distributors from whom income-tax arrears exceeding Rs. 10,000 are due will be collected and laid on the Table of the House as soon as possible.

(b) Depending on the facts and circumstances of each case, steps are being taken in accordance with law for the recovery of these taxes. These steps include—

(i) levy of interest for delayed payment of tax;