

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 SHANKAR
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 lie 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.

(c) 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 I 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 1977-78?