

(b) if so, whether this move will help industry to re-organise and re-structure operations in sync with rapidity of changes, taking place in the business environment as well as to deal with the emergence of new sectors and segments; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Tax benefits pertaining to Mergers and Amalgamation have been extended to industrial undertakings engaged in the business of providing telecommunication services, whether basis or cellular, including radio paging, domestic satellite service, network of trunking, broadband network and internet services. The tax benefits pertaining to Mergers and Amalgamation are allowed only in cases where the resulting tax savings could be utilised to revive potentially viable sick industrial units, having a substantial fixed asset base, which could be utilised in a more efficient manner. Moreover, tax avoidance is inherent in such benefits and it has considerable potential for misuse.

Guidelines for foreign tours by PSU heads

3768. SHRI SALIM ANSARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all heads of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) are required to take prior permission/approval for foreign trips;

(b) if so, the details in this regard with the details of competent authority to accord permission for foreign tours of CMDs of PSUs;

(c) whether there is a limit/restriction of foreign tours of CMDs of PSUs in a financial year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof with the salient feature of guidelines issued in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Instructions and guidelines governing foreign tours of Heads/CMDs of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) have been issued by the Department of Public Enterprises(DPE). The DPE have informed that for Navratna, Miniratna and other profit making CPSEs, and CPSEs which do not depend on budgetary support for payment of salary/wages etc., the Chief Executive may be permitted to undertake foreign tours with prior approval of Secretary of

the Administrative Ministry. Functional Directors of such companies may be permitted foreign tours with the approval of Chief Executive. For CPSEs that are sick and/or loss making or have got budgetary support for salary/wages in any of the last three years or that are referred to Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) or The Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE), foreign tours of Chief Executives as well as Functional Directors will require prior approval of the Administrative Ministry.

(c) and (d) As per guidelines issued by DPE, generally no Chief Executive/Functional Director should undertake more than 6 (six) visits abroad in a year. If the nature of business demands a larger number of visits, a calendar of visits for the entire year should be prepared in advance and visits prioritized. For proposals relating to visits exceeding 6 (six) by a Chief Executive/Functional Director, detailed justification would need to be furnished and such visits would be allowed only in exceptional cases, with the prior approval of Secretary in the Administrative Ministry/Department.

Memorandum regarding allocation of SCSP funds

3769. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any memorandum urging allocation of Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP) fund as per the guidelines stipulated by the Central Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of action Government is going to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) Planning Commission has received requests in the past from various quarters urging allocation of funds for Scheduled Caste Sub Plan as per the guidelines stipulated by the Planning Commission. A Task Force under the Chairmanship of Dr. Narendra Jadhav, Member, Planning Commission in June, 2010 was constituted by the Planning Commission, has identified the Central Ministries/Departments in terms of their obligation to earmark allocation in proportion to the SC/ST population into four categories: (i) No Obligation; (ii) Earmarking outlays less than 15% for SCs and 7.5% for STs; (iii) Earmarking of outlays between 15%-16.2% for SCs and 7.5%-8.2% for STs and (iv) Earmarking more than 16.2% for SCs and more than 8.2% for STs from the Financial Year 2011-12 onwards. Based on these recommendations, Union Government has started separate earmarking of funds under SCSP and details of such allocation are also given in Statement 21 of Expenditure Budget, Volume I.