

States during the last three years; if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Government of Maharashtra have requested for a Structural Adjustment Loan (SAL) of US \$ 750 million equivalent to Rs. 3750 crores from the World Bank.

(b) The proposal has been examined and it has not been found feasible to pose it to World Bank in view of the limited availability of Funds for SAL assistance and proposals of other States already posed to Bank.

(c) Yes Sir. During the last three years, SAL facility was availed of by AP, Karnataka and UP. Requests for SAL from Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Punjab and Maharashtra and requests for subsequent branch from AP, UP and Karnataka received during the period were examined and the proposals from AP, Orissa, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu stand posed to the World Bank.

Enhancement of customs duty on old ships

1679. DR. A.K. PATEL:

SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have enhanced customs duty on old ships from 5 to 15 per cent;

(b) whether Government have received representations regarding reduction in customs duty from Ship Breaker Association/Government of Gujarat; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The basic customs duty on old ships for breaking up was enhanced from 5% to 15% as part of changes made in 2002-2003 budget. However, such ships were simultaneously exempted from the additional duty of customs (CVD) of 16% and the special additional duty of customs (SAD) of 4%. Thus total incidence of customs duty in fact had come down.

(b) Yes, Sir.

[5 August, 2003]

RAJYA SABHA

(c) The request for changes in the customs duty structure was examined but it was decided not to make any changes.

Non-acceptance of tied aid

1680. DR. A.R. KIDWAI:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had announced at G-8 Asian Summit that India will not accept any tied aid in future and simultaneously, it discontinued taking aid from all bilateral donors barring six countries; and

(b) if so, whether he had also declared that all outstanding debt due to all bilateral donors, except four countries will be paid back ahead of time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, in accordance with the Finance Minister's announcement in the Budget for 2003-04, the Government has decided to discontinue taking aid from all bilateral partners, other than Japan, United Kingdom, Germany, United States of America, Russian Federation and European Commission. India will not accept any tied aid in future. It is also proposed to prepay the outstanding bilateral debts, except outstandings to Japan, Germany, USA and France.

Meeting of CMDs of non-life insurance companies

1681. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had called a meeting of the CMDs of the four non-life insurance public sector companies and representatives of the unions in this sector on June 30, 2003; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the main purpose of the meeting and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir. A meeting was scheduled