

Second Round of VRS in Banks

2700. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the Public Sector Banks for launching the second round of the Voluntary Retirement Scheme in their respective banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of those banks where surplus staff still exists, category-wise; and

(d) the action taken by Government in the matter so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Only one bank, i.e., Bank of India has sent a proposal to Government for launching the Voluntary Retirement Scheme for the second time. The bank intends to relieve about 1,000 Officers, 2,000 Clerks and 1,000 Subordinate Staff under the Scheme.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) The proposal received from Bank of India has been examined and they have been asked to furnish certain additional information.

Uniform Policy on Revealing Debts of Customers

2701. SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any rules in force to have a uniform policy for all nationalised banks on revealing of information pertaining to debts of customers;

(b) if so, the details of any uniform policy on how banks should conduct themselves in such matters, particularly revealing damaging information;

(c) whether Government would ensure that such rules are observed by all nationalised banks;

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(d) whether Government are aware of any violations of such uniform rules by nationalised banks; and

(e) the details of the policy laid down by Government to ensure that nationalised banks have a uniform policy on revealing the debts and other financial data of borrowers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (e) In terms of the provisions of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and 1980, all nationalised banks shall observe, except as otherwise required by law, the practices and usages customary among bankers, and, in particular, it shall not divulge any information relating to or to the affairs of its constituents except in circumstances in which it is, in accordance with law or practices and usages customary among bankers, necessary or appropriate for the bank to divulge such information. No instances of violation of these provisions by the nationalised banks, have come to Government's notice.

Excise Duty on Textiles

2702. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the excise duty on Textiles was reduced from 16 per cent to 12 per cent in the last Budget;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that the textile mills in North India have increased their Ex-mill price by 4 per cent thereby depriving the consumers of the concession given by Government; and

(c) if so, what measures have been taken to see that the benefit of excise duty concession is passed on to the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The excise duty on textile fabrics, made ups and garments have been reduced from 16% to 12% *ad valorem* in the 2002-2003 Budget. However, excise duty has not been reduced in respect of textile fibres and yarns.