

Cut in Non-Plan Expenditure of Ministries

1247. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have curtailed the non-plan expenditure of various Ministries and whether Ministry of Finance is also included in the same; if so, the percentage of reduction in non-plan expenditure;

(b) whether unnecessary expenditure by bureaucrats has also been reduced besides reduction in non-plan expenditure of various Ministries; if so, the percentage of reduction and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the effect on functioning of various Ministries due to the said reduction in expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Information in regard to percentage of reduction on account of cut in non-plan expenditure and reduction of unnecessary expenditure is not centrally maintained; and

(c) Cut in non-plan expenditure is in regard to non-developmental non-productive expenditure.

Excise concessions to small scale sector

1248. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government extends certain concessions in central excise on products of small scale industries;

(b) whether labeling or re-labeling and re-packing as far as levy of Excise duty is concerned with regard to Chapter 73 and Chapter 85 are legal or illegal; and

(c) the steps proposed to assist genuine small scale units as far as grant of excise concessions are concerned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Under notification No. 8/2002-CE., dated 1.3.2002 small scale units are eligible

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for full exemption from excise duty on specified goods, upto an aggregate clearance of Rs. 100 lakhs, provided they do not avail any CENVAT credit. Under notification No. 9/2002-CE., dated 1.3.2002, small scale units are eligible for concessional rate of 60% of normal rate of duty, in case they avail the CENVAT credit facility.

(b) and (c) In terms of the provisions of section 2(f) of the Central Excise Act, for certain specified goods including certain goods falling under Chapter 73 and 85 of the First Schedule to the Central Excise Tariff Act, the process of labeling or relabelling and repacking etc. amounts to manufacture. However, the SSI exemption on such goods is available, provided they are specified under SSI exemption notifications, mentioned above. To ensure that the benefit of the exemption is not misused, it has been provided that the exemption will not be available if a small scale unit uses the brand name of another unit.

Vacancies of Executive Directors in Banks

1249. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether vacancies for the post of Executive Directors have been lying vacant in six Public Sector Banks for a long periods;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that the process of selection for the post undertaken recently "is being done in gross violation of the existing guidelines laid down by the Department of Personnel" as brought out in a write up in the Indian Express dated the 26th December, 2002; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for overlooking the established guidelines on the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The posts of Executive Director are lying vacant in the following three banks: