

vacancies has already been initiated by the Government. Appointment of non-official Directors on the Boards of nationalised banks is made in accordance with the criteria for selection and procedure laid down in the Nationalised Banks (Management and Miscellaneous Provisions) Schemes, 1970 and 1980. It has been the endeavour of the Government to include, as far as possible, persons belonging to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe and minority communities on the Boards of Directors of these banks.

Violation of Baggage concession Rules

*220. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ:

DR. H. P. SHARMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether large scale misuse of baggage concession under the baggage rules, with proliferation of "carrier" traffic was brought home by the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament; and

(b) if so, what steps have been or are being taken in the light thereof to prevent misuse of these rules by passengers undertaking frequent trips to neighbouring countries and bringing in goods into the country which allow big margin of profit due to difference in prevailing prices thereof in the country and abroad?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) In its Seventh report presented to the Eighth Lok Sabha, the Public Accounts Committee had urged that Government should devise a system which would combine faster clearance of passengers with prevention of abuse of baggage rules.

(b) The free allowance for passengers coming from Sri Lanka and Maldives was reduced as it was being misused due to the low travel cost. No free allowance is available to passengers coming from Nepal. The comparatively high

travel cost to other countries would reduce the scope for such traffic. The rules are meant for *bona fide* baggage only and the Customs are even now empowered to intercept carriers and impound their goods. Lack of adequate facilities at airports and anxiety not to cause inconvenience to *bona fide* passengers have been preventing the airport customs from enforcing the restrictions on carriers but with the build up of new terminals the customs are increasingly enabled to be more effective in this field.

Exporting of wheat to U.S.S.R.

@1588. PROF. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the countries to which India is exporting wheat;

(b) whether it is a fact that the USSR is likely to import less quantity of wheat due to bumper crop of wheat in that country;

(c) if so, what are the details of the prospects of export of Indian wheat to USSR during this year as compared to that in the last year; and

(d) what are the steps taken by Government to explore other markets for the Indian wheat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) Contracts have been concluded for sale of 5 lakh tonnes of wheat to USSR, and 50,000 tonnes of wheat to Vietnam as commodity loan in addition to gift of one lakh tonnes of wheat to drought affected African countries.

(b) As per Food and Agriculture Organization publication 'Food Outlook' of November, 1985, the production of

@Previously Unstarred Question 756, transferred from the 22nd November, 1985.