

(b) The names of the principal countries to which exports have shown a rising trend during April-December, 1984 as compared to April-December, 1983, for which period data is readily available USA, USSR, Japan, UK, Federal Republic of Germany, France, Italy Netherlands, Australia, Bahrain, Bulgaria, Bangladesh, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, German Democratic Republic, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Oman, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Sri Lanka, Swaziland and Yugoslavia.

Losses Suffered by STC in the Purchase of Newsprint

70. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU; Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Trading Corporation recently suffered heavy loss in the purchase of newsprint;

(b) if so, what is the quantum of loss suffered; and

(c) what are the reasons for such loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Steps for efficient recovery of taxes by Income Tax Department

71. SHRI GAYA CHAND BHUYAN; Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) what steps his Ministry have taken for the clearing up of the Income Tax Department at all levels and for the removal of all interference in the assessment and recovery of taxes from the bigger assesseses; and

(b) in view of the fact that concealed income and wealth are manifestations of the increasing inequality in the distribution of fruits of planned development, what corrective measures Government propose to take for the eradication of concealed income and wealth to reduce or eliminate black money?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) The Government is fully committed to take vigorous measures against tax evaders and of black money. All possible measures to check circulation and prevent further proliferation of black money, including administrative, legislative and institutional are being taken from time to time.

Rise in the Price of Consumer Goods

72. SHRI GAYA CHAND BHUYAN:

SHRIMATI MAIMOONA:

SULTAN: DR. H. P.

SHARMA; SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state.

(a) what is the percentage of rise in the wholesale and retail prices of consumer goods till now after the presentation of the last Budget for the year 1985-86; and

(b) what further measures Government propose to take to put a halt to the steady upward trend of prices of essential commodities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) Changes in wholesale prices and retail prices of consumer goods are reflected in the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) and the All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI) respectively. While the CPI went up by 2.4 per cent between March, 1985 and May, 1985 (the latest available) the WPI increased by 1.5 per cent in the two weeks after the presentation of the Budget (i.e. between 16-3-1985 and 30-3-1985.) During the current financial year so far, i.e. up to 6-7-1985, the WPI has registered an increase of 3.9 per cent against 5.8 per cent in the corresponding period 1984-85 and 5.1 per cent in 1983-84.

The thrust of Government's anti-inflationary policy continues to be on effective demand and supply management including strengthening of public distribution system, enforcement of fiscal discipline and keeping the aggregate liqui-

dity in the system under control. The Central Government has advised the State Governments to take strict action against traders indulging in profiteering, boarding and blackmarketing.

73. [Transferred to the 1st August, 1985.]

News-Item Captioned 'Extortion in Bank Clearing House'

74. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY.

SHRI L. GANESAN.

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item captioned "Extortion in bank clearing house" which appeared in the 'Times of India' on the 5th July, 1985;

(b) if so, whether Government have ordered any enquiry into it; and

(c) if so, what are the findings thereof and what action has been taken against the persons involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) State Bank of India has reported that there was suspension of clearing house operations at Lucknow on a few occasions in the recent past. Reserve Bank of India has been advised to take remedial measures immediately.

Modernisation of Steel Plants

75. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHER-JEE:

SHRI ADINARAYANA REDDY:

Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated cost for modernisation and expansion of each integrated steel plant; and

(b) the amount of money allotted for each plant, year-wise, during the years 1984-85 and 1985-86 for these purposes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) The Bokaro and Bhilai steel plants are being expanded to 4 million tonnes capacity. The latest estimated costs of these schemes are Rs. 2,000, and Rs. 2,300 crores respectively.

SAIL have formulated schemes for technological upgradation of the steel plants at Durgapur, Rourkela and Burnpur (IISCO), at estimated costs of Rs. 990 crores, Rs. 690 crores and Rs. 930 crores respectively. Investment decisions will be taken after the 7th Plan allocations of the steel sector are finalised.

(b) The information is as follows:

	(Rs. in crores)	
Expansion :	1984-85	1985-86
Bhilai 4 MT	215.41	210.00
Bokaro 4 MT	144.30	124.00
Modernisation:		
Durgapur	5.00	16.00
Rourkela	1.00	1.00
IISCO	—	1.00

Free Trade Zone at Falta in West Bengal

76. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHER-JEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state what are the details of the progress regarding the establishment of Free Trade Zone at Falta in West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): For the Falta export processing zone, 105 acres of land has been taken over and developed. Construction of boundary wall has also been completed. Applications for 12 industrial units to be set up in the Zone have been approved. The schedule for the requisite