

(1) Need-based foreign currency loans through branches of Indian banks abroad.

(2) Rupee loans to meet the commitments regarding payment of wages payable in India.

(3) Treating the portion of the wages payable in India out of the Rupee loan sanctioned, as deposits in the non-resident (external) accounts of the workers.

(4) Concessional rate of interest on the above Rupee Loans.

(5) Reduction in the charges for guarantee by financial institutions viz. Export Import Bank of India and Export Credit Guarantee Corporation.

The amounts of foreign currency loan and Rupee loan are decided by the Working Group in the Export Import Bank of India taking into consideration the requirements of each company. The amount sanctioned so far stands at:—

(1) guarantees for foreign currency over drafts of US Dollars 310 Million.

(2) Rupee loans of Rs. 75 crores.

(d) No Sir. However, for new projects in Iraq the Indian companies would be able to avail of foreign currency loans on the same basis as permissible to Indian companies undertaking construction projects in other countries.

Presidential Premises in Possession of Collectorate of Customs, Bombay

2522. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Collectorate of Customs, Bombay is in possession of a number of residential premises which are in use for storing confiscated goods;

(b) if so, what are the details of such premises with the details of the terms and conditions of lease agreements with the owners and in how many cases the lease agreements have expired;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Government of Maharashtra had declared certain areas which were earlier "Industrial" to be as "Residential" areas through their Gazette Notification in 1983;

(d) if so, what are the reasons for which Collectorate of Customs is still using the premises which have been declared "Residential" for storing confiscated goods ignoring the orders of the Government of Maharashtra; and

(e) whether it is also a fact that some M.Ps and M.L.As have written to the Government of India for the vacation of one of such residential premises in Prabhadevi area, if so, what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Loan Application under D.R.I. Scheme received by Bank in Azamgarh District of Uttar Pradesh

2523. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH; Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of applications for loans received by the branches of nationalised banks in Azamgarh District of Uttar Pradesh under the Differential Rate of Interest Scheme from 1st January to 30th June, 1984;

(b) what is the number of such applications which have since been sanctioned; and

(c) by when the other applications are likely to be sanctioned?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and to the extent available and feasible in the present data reporting system of the public sector banks, will be laid on the Table of the House.

1524. [*Transferred to 25th August, 19 4.*]

Imports of Synthetic Rubber

2525. SHRI M. P. KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total import of synthetic rubber during the year 1983-84;

(b) whether Government propose to increase its import to meet the present demand;

(c) whether Government also propose to import natural rubber from rubber producing countries; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) and (b) Import of synthetic rubber is allowed to actual users under Appendix 4 and 6 of the Import Policy for the year 1984-85. Information on total import of synthetic rubber during 1983-84 is not available.

(c) Yes, Sir

(d) The STC has been authorised to import 30,000 tonnes of natural rubber.

Upgradation of Hyderabad Airport as an International Airport

2526. SHRI PARVATHANENI UP-
ENDRA: Will the Minister of TOUR-
ISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be ple-
I ased to state.

(a) whether Government have recently received any request for the upgradation of Hyderabad Airport as an international airport; and

(b) if so, what decision Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHUR-SHEED ALAM KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government is of the view that the existing four international airports in the country are adequate to meet the international traffic requirements. The Government therefore, does not intend to declare Hyderabad Airport as an international airport.

Visakhapatnam Port as a Free Trade Zone

2527. SHRI PARVATHANENI UP-
ENDRA; Will the Minister of COM-
MERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has approached the Central Government for declaring Visakhapatnam Port as a Free Trade Zone; and

(b) if so what decision Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) and! (b) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Commerce have been receiving requests from various State Governments, including Government of Andhra Pradesh, for setting up Free Trade Zones in those State3. Government of India have decided at present to set up 4 additional Free Trade Zones at Cochin, Madras, NOIDA and Falta (West Bengal) and steps are being taken to establish