

Development of tourist centres in Gujarat

846. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what are the schemes with the Central Government for the development of tourist spots in Saurashtra and Kutch regions of Gujarat during 1984 and 1985;

(b) what amount was allocated for the development of tourism in the State during 1983 and so far during 1984;

(c) whether the Central Government has received any proposals in this regard from the Government of Gujarat; if so what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN): (a) to (c) On the basis of proposals received from the State Government, the Department has taken up the project of construction of cuba huts in the Wild Ass Sanctuary, Runn of Kutch at an estimated cost of Rs. 19.65 lakhs. A proposal for flood-lighting of Lakhota Palace in Jamnagar is under consideration.

During the first three years of the current Five Year Plan, an amount of Rs. 6.86 lakhs, was released to the State Government for provision of ten-bed accommodation and boats in Ukkai Lake, Rs. 1.30 lakhs for a mini-bus for use in Sasangir Lion Sanctuary, and Rs. 0.50 lakhs for the promotion of Fairs & Festivals.

Quantity of import of staple fibre

847. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that import of staple fibre has been banned recently under restricted item only;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to permit its import under open General Licence and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) All the principal types of staple fibres are already allowed to be imported by Actual Users under Open General Licence, subject to the conditions laid down in terms of the import Policy in force.

Piling up of tobacco stock in Andhra Pradesh

848. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Trading Corporation has enquired into the causes of piling up of tobacco stock in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) if so, the results of the enquiry; and

(c) what measures have been taken to ease the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) to (c) The State Trading Corporation has not conducted any such enquiry. However, the Tobacco Board and the Government have been seized of the problem. The following measures have *inter alia* been taken to ease the marketing situation in A.P. in 1984:

(i) A meeting was held with major cigarette manufacturers in April, 1984 and they were requested to step up their purchases direct from the growers.

(ii) The minimum export price for low grade tobacco for 1984, 1983 and 1982 crops were removed to induce exporter-dealers to take more low grade tobaccos.

(iii) Nationalised banks advancing credit to tobacco were persuaded to advance additional credit to the trade for purchase of low grade tobacco without insisting on margin money.

Out of the estimated production of 93 million Kgs. of virginia tobacco in Andhra Pradesh during 1984, almost all of it has been marketed.

Loss incurred by State Bank of India, Bhuleshwar Branch, Bombay

849. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item which appeared in the Blitz dated the 23rd June, 1984 to the effect that the State Bank of India, Bhuleshwar Branch, Bombay has incurred a loss amounting to Rs. 12 lakhs in a deal involving export of tobacco to a firm named KMSA Exports

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted into the matter; and

(d) if so, what is the outcome thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) and (b) Presumably the reference is to the news-item concerning State Bank of Indore. However, in terms of the provisions contained in the statutes governing the public sector banks and in accordance with the practices and usages customary among bankers, prohibiting disclosure of information relating to or the affairs of their constituents, further details cannot be divulged.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) The bank is reported to have filed a civil suit against the party for the recovery of its dues. The bank has also intimated that suitable disciplinary action is being taken against the officials involved.

Inquiry against former Chairman, SBI

850. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been cases of misdeclaration of wealth and concealing of assets against Shri Puri, the former Chairman of State Bank of India, as reported in the 'BLITZ' dated the 23rd June, 1984; and

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has since been conducted into the matter, and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) According to the State Bank of India, 3 sisters of Shri A. S. Puri, Managing Director, State Bank of India (and not the former Chairman, State Bank of India) have filed a private suit against him and their mother for their share in the estate of their late father in the Court of Civil Judge, Chandigarh. In the suit, they have alleged that certain properties of their father were not shown in the estate duty return filed before the estate duty authorities. Sri Puri is contesting the suit in his individual capacity and the matter is not connected with his official position in the bank. He has, according to the bank, denied the allegations.

(b) As the matter is *sub-judice* and is a private affairs the Bank does not consider it appropriate to enquire into the matter.

Violation of excise duty by M/s. Vazir Sultan Tobacco Company

851. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government have taken any action against M's.