

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a big potential for export of processed foods, vegetables and fruits in the country, which mostly remains untapped;

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to export processed food from this country in a big way; and

(d) what are the details in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Indian processed foods attract a good deal of attention at the World Food Market Fair at Colongne.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Various export promotion measures are taken like participation in Trade Fairs, sponsoring of trade delegations, market surveys etc. apart from grant of import replenishment and other incentives.

Mysterious death of Income-tax Officer in Ashoka Hotel

1817. SHRI M. S. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a news item captioned 'SHOCKED TO DEATH' published in the 'SUNDAY' Magazine of 21-27th February, 1982 issue regarding the death of Deputy Director Intelligence Income-tax, New Delhi, in Ashoka Hotel, under mysterious circumstances;

(b) if so, whether an inquiry has been conducted and what are the results thereof;

(c) what is the name of the Chartered Accountant who hosted the dinner in Ashoka Hotel as mentioned in the news item; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to restrain officers of the Revenue Department from accepting such type of hospitalities from their clients/counsellors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA): (a) to (c) Government's attention has been drawn to the news item. Shri R. M. Bhagat, Deputy Director of Inspection (Intelligence) New Delhi is reported to have died on 21st October, 1981 at Ashoka Hotel, New Delhi, where he along with his wife and some other colleagues and their wives had gone to attend a dinner hosted by Shri S. L. Batra, a Chartered Accountant of Delhi. The police, who investigated the case, under section 174 Cr. P.C. have reported that around 10 P.M. on 21-10-1981, when the dinner was about to conclude, Shri R. M. Bhagat went to the toilet and when he returned after a few minutes, he felt uneasy and was taken to the A.I.I.M.S., New Delhi by his colleagues where he was declared dead. The post-mortem report indicates that Shri Bhagat's death was due to heart failure as a result of coronary occlusion. The viscera examined by the Chemical Examiner gave a negative test for common poison. The police also do not suspect any foul play. The allegations in regard to the proximity of any chartered accountant with the Chairman or any Member of Central Board of Direct Taxes, or other matters contrary to the facts mentioned above are not true.

(d) Under Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964 and executive orders issued by Government, Government servants have to avoid accepting lavish hospitality or frequent hospitality from any individual having official dealings with him or from industrial or commercial firms, organisations etc. However, a casual meal or other social hospitality does not attract the said rules.

Funds for Carpet Technology Institute

1818. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any funds have been allocated to the Carpet Technology Institute during the last two years; and