

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA): (a) and (b) The Committee of the Departmental Council to whom the question of grant of Special Pay to Tax Assistants working in Internal/Special Audit Parties was remitted by the Departmental Council has not yet submitted its report. The Committee had asked for a Note containing some specific information from the Staff Side in July, 1980. The Staff Side submitted the required Note in August, 1981. Since then, the matter has been under consideration in consultation with the Department of Expenditure. The matter will be again placed before the Committee after a view is taken in the light of the advice of Department of Expenditure.

(c) It is not possible to say when a final decision is likely to be taken in the matter.

India's Capability to meet Threat of Attack by Pakistan

221. SHRI G. C. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government propose to take for defending the country against attack by F-16 planes of Pakistan in view of the Prime Minister's clear statement that India has no capability to meet such attack now; and

(b) how much time will it take to fully meet such threat of attack?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) and (b) Government take cognizance of induction of all weapons systems in our security environment and take appropriate measures to maintain full defence preparedness. It is not in the interest of national security to disclose the details.

Soviet Offer to Buy Cloth from India

222. SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the USSR has offered to buy 500 million sq. metres of cloth from India; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) The USSR Government sounded the Government of India regarding the possibility of export of 500 million metres per annum of cotton fabrics from India. Further details of the offer are awaited from USSR Govt.

Import of Horses

223. SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2726 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 22nd December, 1981 and state:

(a) whether there have been any defaults in the export obligations by importers of horses in the years in which the scheme was applicable;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what action Government have taken to penalise the defaulters?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) The prescribed time limits for fulfilment of export obligations in these cases have not yet been over; hence the question of any defaults does not arise.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Indo-China Accord on Exports

224. SHRI GURUDEV GUPTA:

SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is facing intense competition from China in the export market of developed countries;

(b) whether it is also a fact that high-power Chinese delegation visited India during the last week of December, 1981;

(c) whether the Chinese business delegation was told that the two countries should avoid intense competition for exports to developed countries with a view to getting better prices for their products; and

(d) if so, what has been the response of the said business delegation on the proposal?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The UN Centre on Transnational Corporations financed the visit of four officers from China Council for Promotion of International Trade to India to study matters connected with technology transfer, policies procedures and legal machinery for settlement of disputes etc.

(c) and (d) It was not a trade delegation and did not come for trade negotiations.

Loss suffered by Public Sector Undertakings

225. SHRI GURUDEV GUPTA:

SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the Public Sector Undertakings are running in losses;

(b) what are the details of the loss suffered by the respective Public Sector Undertakings during the last three years, each year;

(c) what is the accumulated loss suffered by Public Sector undertakings till date; and

(d) what efforts are being made to improve the working of the Public Sector Undertakings with a view to show profits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Out of 168 operating Enterprises under Central Government during 1980-81, 93 Enterprises earned post-tax profits. The information regarding details of the loss suffered by the other Undertakings during the last three years and the accumulated loss suffered by Public Sector Undertakings have been provided in the "Public Enterprises Survey 1980-81" to be laid on the Table of the House before the presentation of the 1982-83 General Budget.

(d) Some of the steps taken to improve the working of the Public Sector Enterprises are enumerated below:—

(i) Monitoring by the Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure the performance of the enterprises.

(ii) Constitution of an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Member, Planning Commission, to look into unsatisfactory performance of some enterprises.

(iii) Investment in balancing facilities and captive power plants.

(iv) Expeditious settlement of wage disputes.

(v) Realistic pricing policies etc.

Allotment of seats to smokers and non-smokers in flights

226. DR. (SHRIMATI) RAJINDER KAUR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that front and rear seats in each flight are allotted to smokers and a few middle rows are kept as non-smoking seats thus subjecting non-smokers to hazards of smoke and defeating the very purpose of separate seats;

(b) whether it is a fact that the number of non-smoking passengers is more than smokers but reserved non-smoking seats are far less in numbers; and