

(SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA): (a) and (b) A Committee of Secretaries has been set up to service the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs and its functions include keeping a watch on the price situation. It would not be in public interest to disclose the recommendations of the said Committee, which are necessarily confidential and may or may not be accepted by the Cabinet Committee. Disclosure of the recommendations of the Committee of Secretaries might defeat their purpose.

Bottlenecks throttling exports

39. SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that exporters have placed before Government many infrastructural bottlenecks throttling exports;

(b) if so, what are the bottlenecks so identified;

(c) whether there has been 8 per cent drop in the export of chemicals and allied products during the year 1978-79 as compared to the previous year; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken by Government in this behalf?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government's attention is drawn by exporters from time to time about the infrastructural bottlenecks hampering exports. The major difficulties met by the exporters are shortage of electric power and other energy resources, problems of transport and shipping and congestion at ports.

(c) According to provisional data compiled by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, exports of chemicals and allied products valued at Rs. 146.3 crores in 1978-79 compared to Rs. 116.7 crores in 1977-78, an

increase of 25.4 per cent in 1978-79 over the previous year.

(d) Government is taking steps to augment the infrastructural facilities. As this will take some time, every effort is being made to give a preferential treatment to exporters in the utilisation of existing facilities and other incentives, as far as possible.

Remittances by multinational companies from India

40. SHRI PRAKASH MEHROTRA:

SHRI KISHAN LAL SHARMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount remitted by the branches and subsidiaries of multinational companies from India under the head of profit, dividend, interest, technical fees, royalty and head office expenses year-wise during the last three years;

(b) the percentage of repatriation by these Companies during this period in relation to their foreign investment;

(c) whether there is any proposal to put a ceiling on the amount of remittances to be made by foreign companies; if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA): (a) A statement is attached showing the remittance data for the period from 1975-76 to 1977-78. (See below)

(b) Against the total capital employed by branches/companies, their repatriation works out to 5 to 7 per cent.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The policy of the Government is to permit foreign investment on a selective basis in priority areas. For approved foreign investment, the policy provides for remittance of current earnings.

Statement

Remittances by Indian Subsidiaries and branches of foreign companies

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Profit/ Dividend	Technical Know-how Fees	Royalty	Head Office Expenses	Interest	Total
1975-76	3189.76	348.71	249.19	3787.66
1976-77	4927.84	98.99	138.99	5165.82
1977-78	4457.03	92.74	142.50	4692.27

Wealth tax return of Shri Charan Singh

41. SHRI PRAKASH MEHROTRA:
SHRI BHAGWAN DIN:
SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amount of about rupees one crore received by Shri Charan Singh former Prime Minister on his birthday in 1978 has been shown in his Wealth Tax return;

(b) if so, what is the Wealth Tax assessment of Shri Charan Singh for that year and whether the assessed amount has been paid by him; and

(c) if not, what action Government propose to take against him for the recovery of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA): (a) No Wealth Tax return has ever been filed by Shri Charan Singh.

(b) In view of (a) above, the question of wealth-tax assessment or the payment of assessed wealth tax does not arise.

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

Advance given by Air India and Department of Tourism, for publicity

42. SHRI BHAGWAN DIN:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India and Department of Tourism have received the publicity material for which an advance of about Rupees fifty lakhs was made to a firm in Geneva over a year ago;

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to recover the said amount; and what action has been taken against the persons responsible for the transaction; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in negative, by when Government is likely to take action in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): (a) The Government of India Tourist Office, Geneva, working in collaboration with Air-India under an arrangement called "Operation Europe" had assigned several jobs covering media advertising, a research project and production of a sales kit to its advertising agency, M/s. Knight Keeley of Geneva, as part of its publicity promotional campaign for the year 1978-79. To enable the agency to complete the work, advances totalling SF 681,000 (approx. Rs. 35