

lakhs) were made to the agency from time to time during the year. The agency is reported to have completed work amounting to about SF 256,500 (approx. Rs. 13 lakhs). The balance of the work has not been completed.

(b) and (c) Steps are being taken by the concerned authorities to recover the balance of the advances made. Government have already initiated action to examine the case in detail with a view to fixing responsibility and taking such action as may be found necessary.

Decline in export to the European Economic Countries

43. SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export to European Economic Countries has declined during the current year due to restrictions imposed by them and withdrawal of certain facilities enjoyed so far by the Indian exporters; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) According to provisional figures received, India's exports to European Economic Community Countries amounted to Rs. 826.35 crores during the period April-September, 1979 as against Rs. 735.65 crores during the corresponding period last year, thus registering an increase of 12 per cent.

Irregularities in filling the vacancies of Inspectors and Head-clerks in the Delhi Circle of the Income-tax Department

44. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the nature of vacancies to be taken into account while preparing the list of eligible candidates for consideration by a meeting of Departmental Promotion Committee in Central Government Services;

(b) whether instructions of the Central Government were overlooked recently while holding the meeting of Departmental Promotion Committees for filling the vacancies of Inspectors and Head-clerks in the Delhi Charge of the Income-tax Department;

(c) whether any representations have been received in this regard; and

(d) if so, what action Government have taken or propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA): (a) Existing and clearly anticipated vacancies occurring during the course of one year are taken into account at the time of holding the D.P.Cs. Purely short-term vacancies are not taken into account.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Representations received against regular promotions relate to fixation of seniority in the feeder-cadre of U.D.C. These are under examination. One of the employees has also gone to the Delhi High Court and the matter is *sub judice*.

Foreign Exchange Reserves

45. SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's foreign exchange reserves has gone down during the last six months;

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

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what is the present foreign exchange position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The changes in foreign exchange reserves are the net outcome of India's transactions with other countries, the details of which would become available only with the compilation of