

(b) if so, what is the total amount outstanding for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ZULFIQUARULLA): (a) No taxes are in arrears against the company M/s. Weston Electronics Ltd., manufacturing Weston T.V. A provisional sur-tax demand of Rs. 2.91 lakhs raised in February, 1979 has not fallen due for collection.

(b) Does not arise.

Export of ready-made garments

1781. SHRIMATI SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) the quota fixed for export of ready-made garments for export to France (Category 7—ladies blouses) and the date on which applications in respect thereof were invited and when the quota was exhausted;

(b) whether it is a fact that in the case of the U.S.A. (Category 341—ladies blouses) Government had made a special liberalised policy by drawing 25 per cent quota reserved for second half year *viz.* July—December, 1979 and brought forward the same to the first half year so that all the applicants who applied on the specified date in December, 1978 got the quota; if so, on what basis;

(c) whether Government have received representations from several exporters for following the same policy as it did in the case of exports to U.S.A., for France also so that all those who applied by the specified date in December, 1978 on the basis of reservation of firm contracts were allowed quota for exports to France of Category 7—ladies blouses; and

(d) if so, what action Government propose to take to provide urgent relief to the garment exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BAIG): (a) The

total annual quota fixed for export of readymade garments to France under category 7 is around 26 lakh pieces. The Apparels Export Promotion Council, by their circular dated 11-11-1978, invited applications for the first half year (January—June) for this category from 7-12-1978 under contract reservation and 1-1-1979 for ready goods. Except in case of quantities reserved for higher value realisation, the available quota for the first half year was exhausted on 7-12-1978 and 16-1-1979 under contract reservation and ready goods respectively.

(b) In case of Category 341 to U.S.A. a large number of applications received on the first day could not be granted quota according to the guidelines stipulated in the quota policy. Apart from resulting in hardship to the exporters, this was likely to affect the workers employed in the concerned units adversely. In order to provide relief, it was decided to bring forward some portion of quota on contract reservation earmarked for the second half and allocate equitably to the exporters found eligible.

(c) and (d) It has been decided to extend the same principle to some other categories having similar demand including Category 7 to France.

Dilution of Share-holdings of Foreign Tea Companies

1782. SHRI AJIT KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of foreign-owned tea companies in Assam which have diluted their share-holdings as per the Foreign Exchange Control Order; and

(b) the names of the companies which have not yet diluted their share-holdings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): (a) and (b) The desired information is given in the attached statements. [See Appendix VCIII, Annexure Nos. 113 and 114.]