

19. The Government has set up a Society by the name of Bhartiya Yatri Avas Vikas Samiti to raise and administer funds for the maintenance/expansion/construction of dharamshalas/sarais/musafirghanas.

20. Organisation of special cultural programmes, son-et-lumiere spectacles, and package tours for travel within India generally or to specific places are yet some other facilities provided to attract more international tourists to the country.

Import of items from Nepal

*409. SHRIMATI USHI KHAN:

SHRI PRAKASH
MEHROTRA:

SHRI S. KUMARAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) what are the items, the import of which has been freely allowed from Nepal recently; and

(b) what are the conditions laid down for the import of these items from Nepal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix CVII, Annexure No. 87].

Loan given by the Bank of Baroda to Arab Banks

*410. SHRI ARVIND GANESH
KULKARNI:

DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a loan of Rs. 30 lakhs was given to two Arab Banks in 1976 by the then Chairman of the Bank of Baroda;

(b) if so, whether the approval of the Reserve Bank of India was taken for this loan;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the said loan, being irrecoverable, has been written off; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the affirmative, whether Government have fixed responsibility on the officers concerned; if so, what action has been or is proposed to be taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) to (d) The Bank of Baroda has reported that its Dubai branch had placed an amount of Dirham 5 million with the Ajman Arab Bank, Dubai on 6th December 1976 as a short-term deposit for a period of 6 months. This was done by the Dubai branch within the discretionary powers available to it for making such deposits. The approval of the Reserve Bank was not taken, since such approval is not required. The Ajman Arab Bank, Dubai stopped its operations in May 1977 due to certain financial difficulties. Efforts are, however, being made with the help of the United Arab Emirate's Currency Board to restart the bank under a new management and the Bank of Baroda expects that its deposits will then be repaid under the scheme of repayment including rescheduling.

भारतीय औद्योगिक वित्त निगम द्वारा सरकारी क्षेत्र को दिये गये ऋणों में कमी

*411. श्री लाखन सिंह : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सचे है कि भारतीय औद्योगिक वित्त निगम द्वारा 1976-77 तथा 1977-78 के दौरान सरकारी क्षेत्र को दिये गये ऋणों में तेजी से कमी हुई है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस सम्बन्ध में व्यौरा क्या है और उसके क्या कारण हैं ?

†[Decline in the loans advanced by the Industrial Finance Corporation of India to the public sector

*411. SHRI LAKHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a sharp decline in the loans advanced by the Industrial Finance Corporation of India to the public sector during 1976-77 and 1977-78; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and what are the reasons therefor?]

वित्त मंत्री (श्री एच० एम० पटेल) :

(क) और (ख). जी नहीं। वास्तव में, भारतीय औद्योगिक वित्त निगम द्वारा सरकारी क्षेत्र को पि योजनाओं के लिए मंजूर की गई वित्तीय सहायता जो 1975 (जुलाई-जून) में 11.75 करोड़ रुपये थी वह बढ़कर 1976-77 (जुलाई-जून) में 15.05 करोड़ रुपये और 1977-78 (जुलाई-जून) में 19.58 करोड़ रुपये हो गई।

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) and (b). No, Sir. In fact, financial assistance sanctioned by the Industrial Finance Corporation of India to Public Sector Projects has increased from Rs. 11.72 crores in 1975-76 (July-June) to Rs. 15.05 crores in 1976-77 (July-June) and Rs. 19.58 crores in 1977-78 (July-June).

Import of cassette tape recorders by Indians as personal baggage

†*412. SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHAPATRO:

SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND:

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Customs authorities at various seaports/airports in the country allow Indians on their return from abroad

to bring radio sets and cassette type tape recorders as their personal baggage without payment of customs duty;

(b) whether it is a fact that the import of these items in the country without payment of customs duty adversely affects the growth of the indigenous industry; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to restrict the import of such tape recorders by not treating the same as personal baggage as has been done in the case of television sets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): (a) Under the Baggage Rules only such radios and cassette tape recorders are allowed free of duty as are not in combination with each other or with any other sound recording/reproducing articles. Radios, tape recorders, record players etc. which are in combination commonly known as two-in-one or three-in-one, are not allowed free of duty under the Baggage Rules.

(b) There is no significant import as baggage, of radios or cassette tape recorders which are not in combination. There is no adverse effect, therefore, on the growth of the indigenous industry. The indigenous industry is, in any case, reported to be recording satisfactory continuing growth over the years.

(c) In view of (b) above, the question does not arise.

Subsidies given by Central Government

*413. SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA PANT:

SHRI DEVENDRA NATH DWIVEDI:

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to

?() English translation.

†Previously Starred Question 352 transferred from the 14th December, 1978.