

**Dry Port in Punjab**

868. SHRIMATI SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Punjab Government has moved the Central Government to set up a dry port in Punjab; and

(b) if so, what is Central Government's decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BAIG): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Dwindling Exports under P.L. 480 Funds**

869. SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:  
SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA:  
SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the exports under the Indo-US agreement signed in 1974 in regard to the repayment of PL 480 funds have virtually stopped with India having exported goods worth only Rs. 13 lakhs so far; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and what is Government of India's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BAIG): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However exports relate only to Part II of the Agreement on PL 480 and other funds between the Govt. of India and the Govt. of USA signed in 1974 and are to be made out of non-PL 480 funds and not PL 480 funds. As per para 10(C) of this Agreement, exports of goods and services totalling up to \$ 100 million over a period of 5 years are to be

made to US Govt. agencies with 75 per cent payment in dollars and 25 per cent from non PL 480 funds. Upto June, 30, 1977 purchases by US Govt. have only amounted to Rs. 13,24,330. Slow progress in these purchases is a matter of concern to the Govt. of India because more purchases would result in additionality of our exports to USA and would result in a draw-down on US held non-PL 480 funds in India. Steps are being taken to increase the exports under this agreement.

**US Aid**

870. SHRI BHOLA PRASAD:  
SHRI BIR CHANDRA DEB BURMAN:  
SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make any fresh efforts for seeking economic assistance from the United States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) and (b) The U.S. Administration has initiated discussions on the prospects of a resumption of development assistance to India. The areas and projects for which such aid could be utilised are under discussion.

**Alleged irregularities in Calcutta Circle of the Punjab National Bank**

871. SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA:  
SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA:  
SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the alleged irregularities involving crores of rupees in the Calcutta circle of the Punjab National Bank;

(b) whether Government are also aware that the members of the staff who raised their voices against such irregularities are now facing suspension and/or dismissal;

(c) if so, what is the number of employees at present under the suspension and what are the grounds for their suspension; and

(d) whether Government have instituted any inquiry into the matter?

**THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATIL):** (a) to (d) Information to the extent possible is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Withdrawal of Loan Facilities for Economic Offenders**

**872. SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND:** Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to withdraw all facilities, like grant of loans by public financial institutions, to industrialists who commit economic offences; and

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

**THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL):** (a) and (b) Government are seized of the question of devising measures aimed at economic offenders which would be an effective deterrent without causing any adverse economic consequences to the society. It is pre-mature to give details in this regard.

#### **Appointments of MPs. as Directors in Public Sector undertakings**

**873. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR:**

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided not to appoint Members of Parliament as Directors on the Boards of Management of the public sector undertakings; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

**THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL):** (a) and (b) Government of India have decided that sitting Members of Parliament should not be appointed to the Boards of Directors of Central Government enterprises. The Member of Parliament is part of the organ of public control and is the exponent of public criticism in Parliament of the conduct and affairs of public enterprises. In these circumstances it would not be an appropriate arrangement to appoint sitting Members of Parliament on the Boards of Directors of public enterprises.

#### **Boeing flights to Jorhat**

**874. SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN:** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the decision to introduce Boeing flights to Jorhat during winter has been revised; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

**THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Setting up of a corporation to promote export of diamonds**

**875. SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up a corporation to promote export of diamonds; and