

vate tube-wells/pumpsets located within the command area of a State Tubewell could exercise option before 15-2-1977 of not availing of irrigation facility from the State tubewells in which case the two part tariff would not be applicable to them. These measures involved a loss in revenue of about Rs. 3 crores per annum. The State Government again considered this issue and decided on 31-3-1977 that the two part tariff levied in 1976-77 should be replaced by volumetric rates as were prevalent in 1975-76. This decision has, however, not been given effect to.

(4) *Reduction in Power rates for private tubewells:* Power rates for private tubewells were reduced on 31-3-1977 from Rs. 15 BHP p.m. to Rs. 12 BHP p.m. entailing an estimated annual loss of revenue of Rs 7.71 crores.

(b) The budgetary impact of the above tax concessions is estimated at Rs. 40.09 crores.]

Request of the Kerala Government to take over textile mills

94. SHRI S. KUMARAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES, AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala Government have requested the National Textile Corporation to take over 4 textile mills in the State; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Central Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): Yes, Sir.

(b) Since National Textile Corporation was already shouldering an onerous responsibility of managing 103 sick and weak cotton textile mills, Government does not favour take-over of more sick or closed textile mills for management by the National Textile Corporation. The present

policy is that, should the State Government be desirous of reopening the mills by taking them over under their management, the Central Government would render necessary help for the purpose, provided the mills are otherwise viable.

S.T.C.'s permission to export silver

95. SHRI VITHAL GADGIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Trading Corporation has allowed silver exporters to sell silver in the international market at the rate of 480 cents per ounce; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): (a) No, Sir, However, STC who are the canalising agency for export of silver have exported some silver in the month of May 1977 at a price slightly higher than 480 cents per ounce.

(b) STC made the sale at what was then considered a good price.

दिल्ली-काबुल विमान उड़ानों का बामियान तक बढ़ाया जाना

96. डा० लोकेश चन्द्र : क्या पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या दिल्ली-काबुल विमान उड़ानों को बामियान तक बढ़ाने के लिये आर्याना-अफगान एयरलाइन्स के साथ हाल में कोई बातचीत की गई है।

† [Extending of Delhi Kabul flights upto Bamiyan

96. DR. LOKESH CHANDRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state

† [] English translation.

whether any negotiations have been held with the Aryana-Afghan Airlines recently for extending the Delhi-Kabul flights upto Bamiyan?]

पर्यटन प्रौर नागर बिमानन मंत्री
(श्री पुरुषोत्तम कौशिक) : जी, नहीं ।

†[THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): No, Sir.]

Searches Conducted in Bombay to Unearth Hidden Incomes

97. SHRI HIMMAT SINH:

DR. M. R. VYAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of searches and raids conducted from April to August, 1976 in Bombay to unearth unaccounted incomes and wealth;

(b) what are the details of the searches conducted; and

(c) what action has been taken against the persons or parties involved in concealment of income and wealth?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) and (b) As per information available, 343 search and seizure operations were conducted by the Income-tax authorities in Bombay during the period from 1st April, 1976 to 31st August, 1976. As a result thereof, cash of Rs. 29.39 lakhs and valuable assets worth Rs. 78.64 lakhs were seized. Books of account/documents were also seized in a number of cases.

(c) Orders under section 132(5) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for retaining such of the seized assets as were considered to be sufficient to satisfy

† [] English translation.

the tax liability (including interest and penalty) on the undisclosed income estimated in a summary manner and the existing liabilities under the various Direct Tax Acts have been passed in all liable cases.

Action to frame regular assessments and initiate penal proceedings, wherever warranted, is in progress.

Development of Chattisgarh Region as a Tourist Complex

98. SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state whether Government propose to undertake any survey of the Chattisgarh region in Madhya Pradesh for developing it as a tourist complex in view of the abundance of historical and archaeological sites as well as places of tourist attraction in the region?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): There are at present no proposals to develop Chattisgarh region in Madhya Pradesh as a tourist complex in the Central Sector.

Middle Income Group Foreign Tourists to India

99. SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state that the number of middle income group of foreign tourists who visited India during the last one year?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): It has been estimated on the basis of the survey conducted in 1972-73 that by western standards foreign tourists with an annual income between Rs. 50,001 and Rs. 100,000 belong to