

the middle income group and that 21.8 per cent of the foreign tourists coming to India are from this group. On this basis the number of middle income group foreign tourists visiting India during 1976 was 1,16,400 out of a total of 5,33,951.

Enquiry into the fire accident in A.G.'s Office, Srinagar

100. SHRI SYED NIZAM-UD-DIN:
SHRI GIAN CHAND TOTU:
SHRI LEONARD SOLOMON
SARING:

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

(a) whether any inquiry has been or is being conducted to find out the causes of the recent fire in the Accountant General's Office in Srinagar; and

(b) if so, what are the findings of the enquiry?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) A report about the fire was lodged with the Police Authorities on the 25th March, 1977.

(b) The result of their investigation is still awaited.

101. [Transferred to the 23rd June, 1977.]

Revision of Pay Structure of Central Government Employees

102. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR:
SHRIMATI RATHNABAI SREENIVASA RAO:

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

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to appoint another Central Pay Com-

mission to go into the structure of pay and allowances of the Central Government employees, the setting up of which has become over due in terms of the recommendations of the Third Central Pay Commission; and

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be set up and what will be its terms of reference?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Import Policy

103. SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI:
SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA:
SHRI VITHAL GADGIL:
SHRI BIPINPAL DAS:

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

(a) whether the liberalised import policy now adopted by Government will have any adverse impact on the country's foreign exchange reserves;

(b) whether it is a fact that it will also adversely affect the indigenous production of various commodities; and

(c) whether such policy has been duly supplemented by a favourable export policy?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): (a) and (b) The liberalised import policy is intended to utilise our foreign exchange reserves for productive purposes. The objective is to optimise the utilisation of industrial and agricultural capacity and for strengthening the production base for both domestic market and for exports. In framing the policy, care has been taken that interests of indigenous

manufacturers are adequately safeguarded.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Uniform accounting pattern in Banks

104. SHRI HARSH DEO MALA-VIYA:

SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI:
SHRI HIMMAT SINH:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the nationalised banks have so far not evolved any uniform pattern of accounting; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what steps Government propose to take to bring uniformity in operations and dealings in all banks?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) and (b) The Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss accounts of commercial banks; including the nationalised banks, are presented in Statutory forms A and B of the Third Schedule prescribed under section 20 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. Thus banks present their accounts in a uniform manner. Their basic pattern of accounting is the double-entry system of book-keeping.

Hon'ble Members apparently have in mind certain differences in the actual presentation of balances in Deposit accounts, Advances accounts, etc., by the Nationalised Banks in the aforesaid prescribed Statutory forms. These minor differences in presentation do not, however, arise out of any dis-uniformity in the pattern of accounting, or of operations, or of dealings of the banks.

The Reserve Bank of India also advises the nationalised banks, wherever necessary, to observe certain norms, in recommending to their respective Boards, (i) proper and adequate appropriations of Gross earnings before arriving at published profits; and (ii) subsequent appropriations of the Published profits to Statutory and other reserves. By and large these norms seek to ensure, uniformity in the appropriations of the Gross and Published profits, as well.

Fall in import of iron ore by Japan

105. SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIYA:
SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that export of iron ore through the Visakhapatnam port by Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India to Japan fell short by over one million tonnes of the targetted 6.2 million tonnes during the year 1976-77;

(b) whether it is a fact that as a result of the failure to fulfil the target the Japanese steel mills had reduced their off-take of iron ore from India by diverting their ships to other ports;

(c) whether it is a fact that as a result the Vizag outer harbour primarily constructed for the export of iron-ore to Japan remained idle; and

(d) if so, what is the loss of foreign exchange suffered by India as a result thereof and what steps have been taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.