

2. A proposal to send a delegation to South American countries is under consideration of Central Silk Board.

3. Import replenishment scheme for silk goods has been streamlined.

4. Cash compensatory support on export or silk goods has been announced for the year 1976-77.

5. In order to ensure supply of raw material to Export manufacturers at economic prices, the Central Silk Board proposes to set up a Tasar Development Corporation. It has also formulated a Scheme for stabilization of mulberry raw silk prices.

6. A proposal for setting up an Office-cum-showroom at Frankfurt is under consideration.

7. A procedure for pre-shipment inspection and inspection standards for export of silk goods have been streamlined.

8. In order to ensure exports of quality goods, floor prices have been fixed for certain varieties of natural silk goods.

Investment in LIC Policies

*163. SHRIMATI SAVITA BEHEN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the steps taken or proposed to be taken to make investment in Life Insurance Corporation policies more attractive ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House. Statement With a view to improve its profitability as judged by the surplus and the bonus to policyholders, the LIC has taken a number of steps to increase and conserve its business, effect economy in its expenses of management and improve the return on its investments.

Business :

Through intensive field and publicity effort the need to provide insurance protection to the family is brought home to the prospective assured. Steps taken to conserve the business include the following :

- (i) Administrative measures for improving the quality of new business and preventing over-selling. Identification of and action against Development Officers and agents in whose cases lapses are particularly high.

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- (ii) In order to prevent lapse and re-entry, a new policy is not issued to the assured unless any previous policy of his, which had lapsed during the preceding 3 years, is got revived.

- (iii) Improvement in the quality of service to the Policy holders.

- (iv) Streamlining of procedures for revival of lapsed policies, and provision of facilities for payment of arrears of premiums in easy instalments.

Expenses of management :

The steps taken to effect economy in expenses of management include the following :—

- (i) Virtual ban on fresh recruitment since April, 1974.

- (ii) Simplification of procedures has been undertaken so that offices can cope with increased work without increase in staff strength. Work-norms of Class III employees are also being evolved.

- (iii) Drastic reduction in over-time allowance.

- (iv) Targets for reduction under other heads of miscellaneous expenses have also been laid down.

- (v) The terms and conditions of service of Development Officers have been revised recently, with due emphasis on working within specified cost ratios.

Return on investments :

Within the statutory frame work, the LIC makes every effort to maximise yield on its fund by a careful selection of the investments.

Seizure of Smuggled Goods

*164. SHRI SAT PAUL MITTAL : Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item that appeared in 'The Times of India' dated April 25, 1976 to the effect that smuggled goods worth lakhs of rupees have recently been seized at a number of places in Punjab and Chandigarh;

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

(c) what action Government have taken against the persons involved therein ?

THE MINISTER OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A consignment of agricultural machinery and dairy equipment imported at Bombay and brought to Chandigarh and Ludhiana was found to contain unauthorised items of machinery and contraband goods such as swimming pool equipment, water heaters, car and tractor parts and cosmetics. The consignment was a free gift to the Punjab Dairy Development Corporation from the Canadian Hunger Foundation, Canada. The value of goods seized at Chandigarh and Ludhiana is estimated to be Rs. 25 lakhs. It is suspected that the value of the goods had been under declared and contraband and machinery in excess of the items mentioned in the Customs Clearance Permit had been imported un-authorisedly.

(c) One person has been arrested at Bombay and released on a bail of Rs. 3 lakhs by the court. Further investigations are in progress.

Thefts of Jewellery From S.B.I. Vaults

•165. SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA:
SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:

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

(a) whether Government are aware of recent cases of thefts of jewellery from the vaults of the State Bank of India, Defence Colony and Parliament Street branches in New Delhi; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) State Bank of India has reported that its Defence Colony Branch in New Delhi has not yet been provided with a Locker Cabinet. As regards its New Delhi Parliament Street Branch, the bank has stated that no case of theft of jewellery has been reported by the hirers of lockers.

Amalgamation of Nationalised Banks

*166. SHRI S. W. DHABE : Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to amalgamate all the nationalised banks into one bank or to reduce their number; and

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

THE MINISTER OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Government have not taken any decision to amalgamate all the nationalised banks into one bank or to reduce their number.

(b) Does not arise.

निर्यात नीति को उदार बनाना

*167. श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री :

डा० रामकृपाल सिंह :

श्री जगजीत सिंह आनन्द :

श्री योगेन्द्र शर्मा :

क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) निर्यात में वृद्धि के लिए हाल में निर्धारित की गई विशेष नीति के क्या परिणाम निकले हैं ;

(ख) गत वर्ष की अपेक्षा इस वर्ष किन-किन वस्तुओं का निर्यात बढ़ा है ; और

(ग) क्या निर्यात संवर्धन के लिए कुछ अतिरिक्त उपाय सरकार के विचाराधीन हैं ; यदि हां, तो उनका ब्यौरा क्या है ?

(Liberalisation of export policy

•167. SHRI PRAKASH VEER
SHASTRI:

DR. RAMKRIPAL SINHA :

SHRI JAGJIT SINGH

ANAND:

SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

[] English translation.