

to the effect that Shrimati Gayatri Devi, M.P., was robbed of her jewellery in New York ;

(b) whether Government have since ascertained from the Customs and other authorities about the value and the kind of jewellery she was allowed to take out of the country ;

(c) whether she has made any declaration - to the appropriate authorities about the jewellery she took with her on her visit to the United States ; and

(d) the total amount of foreign exchange released to her for her visits to the United States during the past ten years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) The report regarding robbery of Shrimati Gayatri Devi's jewellery in New York appeared in the Statesman dated 28th October, 1974.

(b) and (c) Shrimati Gayatri Devi did not declare any jewellery to the Customs authorities on her departure from Bombay airport on 30-9-74.

(d) the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

REVERSIONS/PROMOTIONS OF ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS

♦565. SHRI KALYAN ROY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 608 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th November, 1974, and state the number of reversions to Income-tax Officers Class I and promotions to Assistant Commissioner's posts that have taken place during the last one year till the end of October, 1974?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : The position regarding reversions from and promotions to the posts of Assistant Commissioners of Income-tax, during the period 1st November 1973 to 31st October, 1974, is as follows:—

Officers reverted as Income-tax

Officers (Class I) 62

Officers provisionally appointed to officiate as Assistant Commissioners of Income-tax on a purely *ad hoc* basis . 48

Officers working in the grade of Income-tax Officers (Class-I) and promoted as Assistant Commissioners on a regular basis 85

EXPORT OF BICYCLES

566. SHRI AWADHESHWAR PRASAD SINHA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been an increase in the export of bicycles in view of the universal price hike of petrol ;

(b) if so, the number of bicycles exported during the last three years, year-wise and country-wise ;

(c) the amount of foreign exchange earned on that account ; and

(d) what steps are being taken to boost the export of bicycles ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XC, Annexure No. 71]

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES

567. SHRIB. P. NAGARAJAMURTHY: SHRI B. R. ACHAI AH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a fall in India's foreign exchange reserves during the past few months ; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard for the last six months' period ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM) : (a) and (b) Foreign assets of the Reserve Bank of India (excluding drawings from IMF during the current fiscal year) declined by Rs. 227-81 crores during the past six months (i. e. between 31st May, 1974 and 29th November, 1974).

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MATHRANI COMMITTEE

568. SHRI BANARSI DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred on the Mathrani Committee;