

have already been sanctioned in order to strengthen the existing centres and Institutes of Handloom Technology.

Institute of Weights and Measures: The process of acquiring land at Ranchi by the Government of Bihar has been slow and actual allocation of land has taken place in October, 1973 only.

The Budgetary provision in the fourth plan in respect of (i) tea is Rs. 1724.45 lakhs, (ii) handicrafts Rs. 158 lakhs, (iii) Handloom Rs. 110 lakhs and Institute of Weights and Measures is Rs. 20 lakhs. The total budgetary provision comes to Rs. 2012.45 lakhs.

Increase in the Corporate Sector Savings

*626. SHRI KOTA PUNNAIAH: SHRI CHANDRA SHERIAR: SHRI GURMUKH SINGH
Mt SAFIR: SHRI A. G.
KULKARNI: DR. % A.
AHMAD: SHRI KRISHAN
KANT: SHRI J. S. TILAK : SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been any recent increase in the small savings;

(b) whether the increase is also reflected in the corporate sector savings; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The estimates made by the Reserve Bank of India indicate that there has also been a rising trend in the gross savings of the corporate sector.

(c) Does not arise.

Consumption of petrol by Government vehicles

*627. SHRI SANDA NARAYAN-APPA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) what has been the impact of Prime Minister's appeal to cut down consumption of petrol by Government staff cars as part of the economy drive; and

(b) the total quantity of petrol consumed by the staff cars, Ministry-wise, during the period from May to November, 1973?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) It is not possible at this stage to make a realistic assessment of the extent of economy achieved as a result of the recent restrictions on consumption of petrol by staff cars, in the absence of the verified expenditure figures for the relevant period, which can become available only after the close of the current financial year.

(b) The information is not readily available and has to be collected from the Ministries. It will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as possible.

Impact of tourism promotion efforts abroad

*628. SHRIMATI AZIZA IMAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the publicity literature brought out for the promotion of overseas tourism lacks in attraction;

(b) whether any assessment has been made of the impact of publicity literature and tourism promotional efforts abroad; and

(c) if so, what is the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. (SMT.) SAROJINI MAHISHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) There is always scope for improvement and continuous efforts are made to improve the quality of publicity literature. India Tourism Development Corporation which is responsible for producing tourist publicity literature for the Department of Tourism is utilising the services of best available artists, designers, writers and printers in the country for production of tourist publicity literature. As a result of this our literature today is comparable in quality with some of the best in the world. At the annual tourism meeting under the Chairmanship of the Minister, our entire publicity programme is evaluated. The meeting is attended among others by Director General of Tourism, Senior Tourist Officers overseas, Officers of Air India and ITDC. The last meeting was held in June, 1973.

Reform in tea auction

*629. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to reform the system of tea auction, particularly in the States of Assam and West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to activate the Tea Trading Corporation of India as a major force in marketing; and

(d) if so, what are the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYA-YA): (a) and (b) One of the terms of references of the Task Force on Tea set up to study the problems of the tea industry is to look into the pi*sent

arrangements for export of tea including the auction system and suggest improvements, if required. Its recommendations in this regard are awaited.

(c) and (d) The Tea Trading Corporation of India is being activated to make it a major trading agency, mainly to market tea in packs in India and abroad. It will initially market Indian tea in consumer packs in certain selected countries in West Asia as well as in some other countries. It will also market certain specialised brands of tea, such as Nilgiris, Assam and Darjeeling, in the sophisticated markets to cater to the needs of a selected clientele. The plan of operations of the corporation is being worked out, with these objectives in mind.

Export of mica to Soviet Union

*630. SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an agreement for the export of mica to the Soviet Union has been signed; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYA-YA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Minerals and Metals Corporation has signed a contract for export of mica to the U.S.S.R.;

(b) The contract is for export of block mica and condenser films of various grades valued at Rs. 5.33 crores for shipment by the 31st December, 1973.

Speculation in raw jute deals and jute export trade

*631. SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

fa) whether Government are aware that the jute magnates and industrialists are by and large speculators in