

(b) whether in view of varied practical difficulties, the condition requiring production of rent receipt is at present waived in respect of employees drawing a pay up to rupees five hundred; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take in the matter in the light of the practical difficulties in production of rent receipts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Central Government employees drawing pay (inclusive of dearness pay) up to Rs. 620 are, at present, eligible to draw house rent allowance without production of rent receipts, provided they pay some rent.

(c) The recommendations of the Pay Commission are under the consideration of Government.

TRADE WITH HONG KONG

461. SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI :
SHRI HARSH DEO MALA-
VIYA :

SHRI HIMMAT SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the annual volume of trade between Hong Kong and India during the last three years;

(b) whether Government made an analysis of the export composition of Indian Commodities and if so, whether any scope for expansion of exports to that country was found particularly in respect of structural steel, building hardware, rolling-stock and engineering goods; and

(c) the steps that Government propose to take to exploit this export potential?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) Rs. 13.72 crores in 1969-70; Rs. 18.01 crores in 1970-71;

Rs. 18.00 crores in 1971-72 and Rs. 10.41 crores during six months (April—Sept.) of 1972-73.

(b) Yes, Sir. There is scope for expansion of exports from India to Hongkong except perhaps in respect of railway rolling stock.

(c) Steps taken include—

(i) holding of a special "India week" exhibition,

(ii) Visit to India, at the invitation of the STC, of a team headed by the Chairman, Hongkong Trade Development Council.

(iii) Visit to Hongkong of a study team of the Engineering Export Promotion Council for identifying items having export potential.

(iv) Opening of a nucleus office of S. T. C.

(v) Setting up of S.T.C. (Far East) with shares equally contributed by S.T.C. India and leading Hongkong businessmen of Chinese and Indian origin.

Commercial information, tender notices etc. are being disseminated and exporters are being encouraged to avail themselves of the export opportunities to Hongkong.

DEVELOPMENT OF PORT BLAIR BEACH

462. SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA :

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI KUMARI
CHUNDAWAT :

SHRI MOHAMMAD USMAN
ARIF :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to develop in Port Blair Beach; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?