

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH): (a) and (b). The liberalised terms for the setting up of industrial units by Indian Nationals returning from abroad relate to the import of machinery, components and raw material. Hotel projects approved by the Department of Tourism from the point of view of their suitability for foreign tourists are being allowed the import of various items of plant and machinery, and provisions considered essential to their requirements.

INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY

891. SHRI KALYAN ROY :

SHRI BALACHANDRA
MENON:

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

(a) the steps taken by Government to improve the functioning of the International Airport Authority, and

(b) the total amount spent on it during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) : (a) The International Airports Authority was constituted on the 1st February 1972 and the four international airports were vested in it only on the 1st of April, 1972. In spite of the initial difficulties and problems which a new organisation faces the performance of the Authority has been satisfactory.

(b) The Authority has spent Rs. 443.79 lakhs from the 1st February to 31st December, 1972. Government have advanced Rs. 450 lakhs as capital of which "Half is equity and the other half loan. An initial loan of Rs. 4 lakhs advanced to the Authority has since been repaid with interest.

EXPORTS TO EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

892. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA:
SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA ;

DR. Z. A. AHMAD :
SHRI LOKANATH MISRA :
SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been considerable decline in exports to East European Countries while exports to West Europe and America increased during 1971-72;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of exports to these two categories of countries during the last three years, year-wise; and

(d) what steps are being taken to recapture the markets in East Europe?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) A slight decline in exports to East European Countries has taken place in 1971-72 although to West European countries and America exports have shown some upward trend.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Exports for the last three financial years to these countries are as under ;—

in crores of Rupees

Country	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72
West Europe	295.23	300.29	326.59
America	242.54	217.68	278.46
East Europe	307.67	362.43	343.59

(d) Government has under constant review the various possibilities of expanding exports to the East European Countries. Among the steps taken to utilise the potential of expanding exports to East European countries are annual bilateral trade negotiations with these countries, namely Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic