

However during the period of about six months ending 30th September, 1970, 674 foreign tourists mainly from countries in Western Europe and North America with rather unconventional dress and manners entered India.

(b) By and large, they depend upon their own resources for finance.

(c) It appears that, like other tourists, they usually visit neighbouring countries including Nepal.

(d) They are mostly students and artists.

(e) As no separate statistics have been maintained, the information is not available. However, 18 of the 674 who entered during the six months period ending 30th September, 1970 came to notice for violation of the excise law, trespass, etc.]

#### IMPORT OF DRY FRUITS

\*247. SHRI S. C. ANGRE :  
SHRI DEVDUTT KUMAR  
KIKABHAI PATEL :  
DR. BHAI MAHAVIR :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE/विदेश व्यापार मंत्री be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government decided in May, 1970 to fix minimum and maximum limits of Rs. 3,000 and Rs. 50,000 respectively for the import of dry fruits from Iran ;

(b) whether the maximum limit has since been done away with ; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE/विदेशी व्यापार मंत्री (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### STATEMENT

Until April, 1970, established importers of dried fruits from Iran were getting licences on the basis of 10 per cent of their best year's imports during the basic period. A large number of these were so small in value as to make imports uneconomical. It was, therefore, decided to fix Rs. 3,000 as the minimum for any licence. In order to make this possible within the foreign exchange available, the maximum value of licences was reduced to Rs. 50,000.

There were a large number of representations from the trade pointing out that fixation of such a ceiling had affected maintenance of offices, both in Iran and in India, which was necessary for promotion of exports of Indian goods. It was feared that any constrictions on traditional trading houses might affect established exports.

On a review, it was decided that instead of imposing a ceiling, savings necessary for keeping the minimum value of licences at Rs. 3,000 would be secured by reducing the basis of licences from ten per cent to eight per cent.

#### PRODUCTION OF COARSE AND MEDIUM VARIETY OF CLOTH

\*248. SHRI A. D. MANI : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE/विदेश व्यापार मंत्री be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the textile units in the country to step up production of coarse and medium varieties of cloth ;

(b) whether there has been a decline in the production of such varieties of cloth in 1970-71 ; and

(c) if so, the reasons for the decline in production ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE/विदेश व्यापार मंत्री (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) to (c) A statement is attached.

#### STATEMENT

The production of coarse and medium varieties of cloth including controlled varieties has declined during 1970-71 due to rise in cotton prices and cost of wages etc. As regards controlled cloth the mills represented that it was *not* economical to produce cloth on the basis of prices fixed in May, 1968.

The situation relating to controlled cloth was examined in detail in consultation with the Cotton Textile Industry. A scheme has been evolved for raising production of controlled cloth from 12 million sq. metres during last quarter to 100 million sq. metres of controlled cloth during a period of 3 months beginning from 1st June, 1971.

The overall decline in production of cloth coarse and medium including control