

being instant coffee, tea, textiles, hosiery goods, cosmetics, locks and padlocks, sanitary-ware, ladies chappals, fruit juices, handloom cotton and silk goods and handicrafts.

(d) Foreign exchange earnings from export of these items will accrue as and when the relevant contracts are signed and executed.

CONSTITUTION OF ORDNANCE BOARD

774. SHRI GANESHI LAL CHAUDHARI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are contemplating to constitute an Ordnance Board to streamline the procedure for purchase and procurement of ordnance items within the country to cut down delays in supply;

(b) if so, the terms of reference of this Ordnance Board; and

(c) whether this Board will also look into the present inspecting system, which is the main cause of the delay in supply of ordnance material?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The constitution, functions and powers of the Ordnance Production Board are in the process of being finalised.

SUITCASE CONTAINING BOMBS WITH ARMY OFFICER IN ASSAM

775. SHRI M. ASAD MADANI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that an Army Officer was held in early April this year with a suitcase containing bombs in the Landing Division of Assam;

(b) whether any enquiry has been conducted into the matter and if so, what is the outcome thereof; and

(c) what is the name, rank and usual place of residence of the officer held?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH) : (a) Government have no information.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

†U. S. S. R. DELEGATION OF SERICULTURE DEPARTMENT TO KASHMIR

260. SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a delegation of the Sericulture Department of the Soviet Union recently visited Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, whether this delegation's visit was sponsored by Government of India;

(c) the reasons of their visit to Kashmir only; and

(d) how long they stayed in Kashmir and purpose of their visit?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, under Indo-Soviet Cultural Exchange Programme.

(c) The delegation visited Kashmir Mysore, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Bihar.

(d) The duration of their stay was four days and the purpose of visit was to study sericulture industry in the J & K State.

‡NICOBAR AS FREE PORT

427. SHRI G. A. APPAN : SHRI S. SIVAPRAKASAM :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to make Nicobar a free port with a view to attracting the capital of the Indians living overseas; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a) The question of setting up of a Free Port in the Andaman/Nicobar Island has been examined by the Government and it has been decided that the idea should be dropped.

(b) Does not arise.

§CLOSING DOWN OF TEXTILE MILLS IN WEST BENGAL

783. SHRI KALYAN ROY : SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of textile mills closed down in West Bengal and number of

†Transferred from the 1st May, 1970.

‡Transferred from the 6th May, 1970.

§Transferred from the 15th May, 1970.