

Sale and production of standard cloth

43. PROF. RAMLAL PARIKH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of production of controlled cloth, State-wise, alongwith its price variation during the last two years;

(b) the quantity of the cloth sold during the same period;

(c) the likely demand and the estimated production of the cloth for the next two years; and

(d) the percentage of production of controlled cloth to the total production of cotton cloth in each State during the last two years?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) :

(a) and (b) The relevant figures are as follows :

(Figures in million sq. metres)			
Period	Production Sale		
	(approximate figures)		
April 74 to			
March 75	.	823.21	716.86
April 75 to			
March 76	.	666.29	736.78
(Provisional)			

Separate State-wise figures are not available.

The prices of controlled cloth were last revised in April 1974, and have not been changed since then.

(c) Obligation for the production of controlled cloth are fixed quarterly in respect of each mill on the basis of number of loom shifts worked by a mill in a quarters preceding the quarter previous to the one for which obligation is being fixed. Therefore, no estimate of the production can be made at this stage.

The production of controlled cloth is meant to meet, by and large, the cloth requirements of weaker sections of the population. The requirements of these sections are not confined only to controlled varieties as consumption pattern covers other products like art-silk fabrics, blended

fabrics and hosiery goods. The current levels of production and supply appear adequate to meet the requirements.

(d) Information will be laid on the Table of the House.

Writing off of Income Tax Arrears

44. SHRI GOVINDRAO RAMCHANDRA MHAISEKAR : Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that arrears of income-tax amounting to 700 to 900 crores of rupees may have to be written off being irrecoverable; and

(b) what is the procedure followed before and amount payable by an assessee is written off ?

THE MINISTER OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) An Income tax demand due from an assessee is considered for write-off only when it becomes irrecoverable. The usual procedure followed by the Department, before an amount is written off, is briefly explained as under :—

In cases involving irrecoverable demands upto rupees 2000/- each, the Inspecting Assistant Commissioner of Income-tax/Income-tax Officer can write off the demands on their own subject to the powers of write-off delegated to them. Cases for writing off outstanding demands exceeding Rs. 2000/- but not exceeding Rs. 1 lakh in each case are considered by a Local Committee constituted in each Commissioner's Charge consisting of the commissioner of Income-tax, the Inspecting Assistant Commissioner of Income-tax and the Income-tax Officer concerned. Cases of arrear demands exceeding Rs. 1 lakh are examined initially by a Zonal Committee consisting of three Commissioners of Income-tax in the Zone including the concerned Commissioner of Income-tax. After a case is so examined and recommended for write off by the Zonal Committee, the Commissioner of Income-tax may exercise the powers of write off if the tax arrears are below Rs. 10 lakhs. Proposals for write off of arrears of Rs. 10 lakhs and above are forwarded to the Central Board of Direc

Taxes along with the recommendations of the Zonal Committee. The propriety or otherwise of writing off tax arrears in such cases is decided by the Central Board of Direct Taxes. The approval of the Minister of Revenue and Banking is sought by the Board in cases involving arrear demand of Rs. 50 lakhs and above.

Abolition of free trade zones at Kandla and Santacruz

45. SHRI GOVINDRAO RAMCHANDRA MHAISEKAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to shelve the expansion of free trade zones in the country; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to abolish free trade zones at Kandla and Santacruz also ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) :

(a) and (b) A decision has been taken that the establishment of new Free Trade Zone will not be encouraged. However, this will not affect the working of the existing Free Trade Zones at Kandla and Santa cruz.

Export trade

46. SHRI GANESH LAL MALI :
SHRI GIAN CHAND TOTU :
SHRI LEONARD SOLOMAN
SARING :

SHRI SYED NIZAM-UD-DIN :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the names of the goods the export of which has increased or declined during the first six months of the current calendar year ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : During the first three months of the current calendar year, the latest period for which data is available, the principal items export of which increased as compared to the same period last year, were leather and leather-manufactures, cotton apparel, jute manufactures, cotton piece goods (mill made), iron and steel, sugar, fish, silver and spices. On the other hand, principal items export of which declined during this period as compared with corresponding period of last year were cashew kernels,

tobacco unmanufactured, tea and chemicals and allied products.

Air India earnings

47. SHRI GANESH LAL MALI :
SHRI GIAN CHAND TOTU :
SHRI LEONARD SOLOMAN
SARINGS :
SHRI SYED NIZAM-UD-DIN :

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

(a) what are the total earnings of Air India during the last six months from passenger traffic within the country and abroad;

(b) what are the new routes operated by Air India during the current year; and

(c) what are the routes especially in South East Asia and West Asia, which are proposed to be operated during the next five years ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : (a) During the period December 1975 to May 1976 the operating revenue earned by Air-India from passenger traffic on scheduled services and open market charters was Rs. 6480.12 lakhs.

(b) Effective 6th April 1976, Baghdad was introduced as a new on line station on the Gulf route and an additional frequency to Gulf on the sector Bombay/Dubai/Bombay was introduced with Boeing 747 aircraft from August 1976. Seychelles also became another on line station on the India/Mauritius route effective 26th June, 1976. Twice weekly Boeing 747 service to Australia was introduced from April 1976 and additional frequencies to UK were provided.

(c) Air-India have no plans for the present to add any new routes on the South East Asia Region. However, the Corporation are examining the possibility of extending their services to places such as Montreal and Toronto in Canada and Nigeria and Ghana in West Africa. Market Surveys are also being planned to assess the traffic potential of various countries West Asia namely, Turkey and Greece.