

Tax Relief to Export-Oriented Industries

5. SHRI JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to provide some tax relief to export-oriented industries; and

(b) if so, what are the main features of the proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir. There is no such proposal under consideration by the Central Government at present.

(b) Does not arise.

Air Pact with Poland

6. SHRI JANARDHANA REDDY : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL*AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Air Pact with Poland has been signed in July 1976; and

(b) if so, what are the main features of the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. According to the agreement reached, Air India will be entitled to operate two services per week to/through Warsaw or Gdansk in Poland. Reciprocally, the Polish airline LOT will be entitled to operate two services per week to/through India, out of which at least one service will be operated to/through Calcutta, and the other to/through Bombay or Delhi.

Taxing of Agricultural Income

7. SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state ;

(a) whether the Planning Commission has recommended in its recent Report to Government to impose tax on agricultural income and wealth with a view to raising resources for the 1976-77 Annual Plan; and

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken by Government for the implementation of the recommendation ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) : (a) The reference in the question is perhaps to the Planning Commission's document on the Annual Plan 1976-77. This document was placed on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on 26th May, 1976. In Para 32 Chapter 111 of the document, the Planning Commission have suggested the urgent necessity for further measures to raise additional resources through agricultural taxation.

(b) Taxation of agricultural income falls within the jurisdiction of State Governments. Government of India have constantly been advising the State Governments to raise additional resources from the comparatively affluent sections of the agricultural sector through such measures as an agricultural holding tax as recommended by the Raj Committee, progressive surcharges on land revenue, betterment levy, cess "on" commercial crops, enhancement of water rates and tariff on agricultural loads etc. It may be added here that Raj Committee's recommendation regarding partial integration of agricultural incomes with non-agricultural incomes for determination of the rate of tax applicable to non-agricultural incomes has already been accepted by the Government of India and given effect to in 1973.

"Workers' Sector"

8. SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) What are the details of the concept of "Workers' Sector" to be formulated with Rs. 1,000 crores compulsorily deposited money of the working people;

(b) whether any trade union has opposed this idea of "Workers' Sector"; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): (a) to (c) No scheme for the formation of a "Workers' Sector" has yet been formulated.

The matter is under consideration of Government. Tax evasion cases against Grindlays Bank Ltd.

9. SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA: Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state: