

Cooperation and Joint Ventures with South East Asian Countries

4439. SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of several avenues of co-operation and joint-ventures with the South-East Asian countries;

(b) if so, whether these avenues have been identified, and details thereof; and

(c) steps taken by Government to promote trade and projects promotion with these countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BHURSHED ALAM KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Under the auspices of the Trade Cooperation Sub-Group for Joint Ventures set up on the basis of the recommendations of the Conference of Asian Ministers of Trade, the ESCAP Secretariat is exploring possibilities of Joint Ventures in a number of Sectors like fisheries, wood products, minerals, manufactured products, textiles, oil seeds crushing and processing, pulp, paper and newsprint, sugar mills, chemicals and pharmaceuticals, cement plant, industries based on molasses, jute carpet, twine and rose making, twine and rope, garment making, leather and footwear, machine tools, electronics, petro-chemicals, light engineering industries and exploration for minerals, among the Member countries of the Sub-group. Government is taking active interest in the activities of the Trade Cooperation Sub-group.

2. India has entered into trade agreements with Australia, Burma, Democratic Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Vietnam, Indonesia and the Philippines (yet to be ratified by the Government of Philippines). More than 50 per cent of the Indian joint ventures abroad have been established in South East Asian countries and a

number of other joint ventures are at various stages of implementation. Besides, India has sponsored a number of trade delegations to this region. Organisations like Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry have also been sending delegations to the South East Asian countries for promoting trade. In addition, Trade Development Authority, Commodity Boards and various Export Promotion Councils take various export promotion measures to boost our exports to South East Asian countries. India has also organised a number of wholly Indian Trade Fairs and participated in a number of international fairs held in this region to project Indian capabilities and to popularise the plant, machinery and equipment produced in India.

3. As regards promotion of projects in the countries of this region, the following steps are being taken:—

(i) Policy matters relating to Project Exports are regularly kept under review by the Overseas Projects Development Committee;

(ii) Proposals of Project contractors for bank guarantee etc. are cleared expeditiously at a single point by a Working Group coordinated by IDBI;

(iii) The EEPC are disseminating information regarding tenders issued by various countries; and

(iv) Efforts are being made to interest more Indian firms in entering the field of projects exports in the South East Asian Region.

Housing Problems of Staff of Tourism and Civil Aviation

4440. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is taking enough interest in solving problems of the staff of Tourism and Aviation; and

(b) if so, the allocation and details of progress in Delhi, Bombay and elsewhere?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The required information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Buying of Jute from Grower

4441. SHRI D. L. BAITHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state.

(a) whether as per Government policy Jute Corporation of India has been instructed to buy jute from the growers to avoid middlemen and whether this policy is working effectively and, promptly;

(b) whether Government are aware that J.C.I. is still lacking in proper infrastructure for buying jute from growers at various purchasing centres;

(c) whether J.C.I. is also facing acute scarcity of space for storing the purchased jute for want of sufficient funds and lack of proper security together with suitable infrastructure to transact its business;

(d) whether only 40 to 50 per cent of the total jute produced could be purchased by the J.C.I. which could not yield any tangible results so far as giving relief to the jute growers is concerned; and

(e) whether Government would consider the desirability to arrange for proper infrastructure with sufficient fund, space for storing, security, etc. for the J.C.I. so that it may be able to mop out at least 70 to 80 per cent of the total jute produced from the growers; if not, why?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN):

(a) to (e). During the current year,

till 15-2-61, the JCI has achieved a record procurement of 10.22 lakh bales, 80 per cent of which was from the growers. Though funds were not a problem, further procurement was hampered due to shortage of storage space despite the fact that the godown capacity had been increased from about 12 lakh bales in the preceding year to 20.29 lakh bales during the current year. The Corporation's inability to sell all its old stocks also added to the demand on the storage space. The stocks are insured against risks of fire, burglary and floods and this seems to be a reasonable arrangement for security. All attempts will be made to further enhance this level of procurement in the action plan for the next year which is under preparation. Government have appointed a Study Group to make suitable recommendations for improvement in the working of the Corporation. A Working Group has also been constituted to suggest measures for forging effective links between cooperative credit and marketing to protect the interests of the jute growers.

Depositing of Excise Duty by Exporters

4442. SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a system of executing a bond for 44 per cent excise duty on the collapsible tubes which were being exported;

(b) whether the Ministry has revised this policy and is now insisting that the exporters should deposit this excise claim later, after shipment, the refund of this excise duty; and

(c) if so, the reasons for this change and whether it has not adversely affected the exporters of collapsible tubes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA): (a) Export