

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): (a) and (b). It is not a fact that all Government officials bringing motor vehicles from foreign countries are not required to pay customs duty. Only Heads of Indian Missions abroad, when returning to India on termination of their assignments, are allowed exemption from payment of duty on their personal motor cars provided these had been in their possession and use in the foreign station for at least 2 months prior to their arrival back in India.

(c) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(f) The Government do not have any positive information in this behalf but, in view of the existing conditions in the country, it is likely that when such cars are sold, they might fetch high prices.

(g) It is not proposed to impose restrictions on the sale price of such vehicles.

Autonomous Body for Planning and Implementation of Social Service Research Programmes

3286. Shri A. Sreedharan:
Shri Kameshwar Singh:
Shri P. Viswambharan:
Shri Mangalathumadom:

Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Committee appointed by the Planning Commission has recommended the setting up of an autonomous body for overall planning and implementation of social service research programme in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to implement the recommendations of the Committee?

The Minister of Planning, Petroleum and Chemicals and Social Welfare (Shri Asoka Mehta): (a) and (b). Yes. The Committee on Social

Science Research has made an interim recommendation for setting up a Council for Social Science Research in the Country. The Planning Commission is awaiting the full report of the Committee before formulating its recommendations.

Damodar Valley Corporation

3287. Shri Kameshwar Singh:
Shri A. Sreedharan:
Shri Nihal Singh:
Shri Sheopujan Shastri:
Shri J. B. Singh:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the estimated life of the Damodar Valley Corporation Dam's power generation capacity has decreased;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to prevent it?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Dr. K. L. Rao): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Extensive soil conservation measures have been taken up to reduce the rate of siltation of the reservoirs.

Export by Public Sector Undertakings

3288. Shri Kameshwar Singh:
Shri A. Sreedharan:
Shri Nihal Singh:
Shri Sheopujan Shastri:
Shri J. B. Singh:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any increase in the exports by the public sector undertakings after the opening of sales offices abroad; and

(b) if so, how much foreign exchange has been earned by the public sector undertakings during the last six months?