

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : (a) Income-tax Department has not conducted search in the case of any steel trader in Delhi/Bombay in 1985.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

Proposal to Reserve Certain Item of Import-Export for SC/ST Traders

7142. SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI : Will the Minister of **COMMERCE** be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to reserve certain percentage of items of import/export for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes persons to enable these weaker sections to improve their standard of living;

(b) whether it is proposed to patronise real workers' firms/associations to export leather and leather goods like, shoes, etc. rather than patronise middlemen; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Bharat Leather Corporation and the various State Leather Development Corporation are assisting small scale units engaged in the manufacture of finished leather and leather products in internal marketing as well as export. State Trading Corporation of India Limited, Trade Development Authority and the National Small Industries Corporation are also assisting these units in exporting their products.

Revival of Cashew Industry in Kerala

7143. PROF. K. V. THOMAS SHRI SURESH KURUP :

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE** be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has been brought to the attention of Government that cashew industry in Kerala is in a declining trend; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to revive the industry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) and (b). The Cashew Industry concentrated mainly in Kerala has been facing problem arising from the fluctuations in International prices and rising cost of production of raw cashew and its processing. A number of schemes including the multi-state cashew development programme are being implemented to increase productivity, reduce cost of cultivation and to increase the availability of raw cashew.

Reports of Silk Board Officials visit Foreign Countries.

7144. SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of **SUPPLY AND TEXTILES** be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that officials of Central Silk Board are paying visits abroad on Government expense in the names of development of silk industry ;

(b) if so, whether they have submitted their reports in that regard ; and

(c) the details of the expenditure incurred thereon along with the number of occasions when the officials paid visit abroad and the date of their submission of reports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) Officers from the Central Silk Board go abroad on official tours as and when necessary in the interest of official work. The expenditure on such visits is met by the Central Silk Board which is a statutory Board fully founded by the Central Government. Such visits have been normally in connection with study of