

1	2	3	4	5
7. The R. B. N. Singh Sugar Mills, Lhaksar, Distt. Saharanpur (U.P.)		203.03	1-2-86	† 189.36 as on 2-2-86.
8. The Seksaria Sugar Mills, P.O. Babbnan, Distt. Gonda (U.P.)		65.48	13-3-86	† 94.81 as on 22-2-86.

*Arrears are on or near the date of handover/denotification.

† There figures represent the position of the peak of the crushing season when cane dues tend to be on higher side but get cleared as the season tapers off. Besides, these two factories have recently been facing problems of cash credit limits

Vacant Posts of Heads of Public Undertakings

2845. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of public sector undertakings under his Ministry are without any Chairman/Managing Director at present;

(b) if so, the names of such public sector undertakings;

(c) the reasons for not filling up these vacancies and the date with effect from which each one of them is lying vacant;

(d) the arrangements under which the undertakings are working at present; and

(e) when the vacancies are likely to be filled ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI A K. PANJA) : (a) to (e). As at present, there is one vacancy of Managing Director in the Food Corporation of India which arose on 11-3-1986. Action to fill this vacancy has been initiated.

In the Central Warehousing Corporation, the post of Managing Director fell vacant on 28-1-1986. As an interim arrangement, the charge has been entrusted to an

officers of the Ministry in addition to his duties. A full-time Managing Director in expected to be appointed shortly.

There is no vacancy of Chairman or any other Managing Director in the undertakings under the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies.

Indirect Taxes Affecting Common People

2846. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that 82% of the total revenue from taxes including customs is collected through indirect taxes which have a direct impact on prices and affect the common man's budget; and

(b) the steps being taken to ensure that the burden of indirect taxes is reduced and common people get economic relief ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Collections from indirect taxes are estimated to be about 80% of the total revenue from Central taxes according to revised estimates for 1985-86. However, the effect of changes in indirect taxes on prices depends on a variety of factors, such as the type of commodities taxed, and the relative elasticity of demand and supply of specific commodities to prices etc.

(b) It has been the endeavour of the Government to keep the levy of indirect taxes in respect of essential articles for the

common man to the minimum possible. An important objective of the policy has also been to encourage increase in production and productivity specially of essential commodities. The budget for 1986-87 indicates several other steps which aim at improving the economic and social conditions of the common people.

Allocation for Promotion of Tourism in Himachal Pradesh During Seventh Plan

2847. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of the investment by the India Tourism Development Corporation in the promotion of tourism in Himachal Pradesh to the total investment in the country during the Sixth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether it is a fact that this percentage is extremely low and the investment has been far too inadequate as compared to the demand by the Himachal Pradesh Government in this regard;

(c) whether it is proposed to increase the allocations for the promotion of tourism in Himachal Pradesh during the Seventh Plan and accord a high priority for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the nature of priority and the total allocation for this purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) to (d). Central Government normally takes up tourism schemes in consultation with the State Government, based on the potential of the scheme and inter-se priorities fixed by the Planning Commission. Since no allocation is made by the Department state-wise or region-wise, the question of low or inadequate investment in Himachal Pradesh does not arise. Even ITDC takes up project for accommodation, etc. as may be justified by market requirements. At present ITDC runs a Travellers' Lodge at Manali.

However, it has been agreed in principle to accord higher priority to development of tourism infrastructure in Himachal Pradesh during the 7th Plan. Central Government, have already sanctioned construction of trekkers huts in Sarhan at an approximate cost of Rs. 18.00 lakhs. The State Government, has been requested to formulate some more schemes including a Yatri Niwas which could be taken up within the overall parameters of the Central Government.

[Translation]

Steps for Increasing Export of Bidis

2848. SHRI R.M. BHOYE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to export Indian bidis to 'foreign countries' in order to enhance exports of bidis;

(b) if so, the names of the countries where Indian bidis are liked; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to encourage this industry ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) UAE; Kuwait, Saudi Arabia; Qatar Oman, Bahrain, Malaysia, Singapore and Netherlands are some of the important countries importing Indian bidis.

(c) The measures taken by Government to encourage bidi industry through exports include :—

- (1) Market surveys in selected Middle East and Asian countries and West European countries;
- (2) Study up packaging of bidis;
- (3) Display of samples of Indian bidis at various International fairs,