

(a) whether Census Office of the Government of India has conducted any survey to obtain information regarding the number of denotified (Vimukta Caste) Gypsies and Half-Gypsy communities; and

(b) if not, whether any steps will be taken to conduct such a survey by the Centre so that adequate ground can be prepared for formulating schemes for the social and economic development of these communities?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS
(S. BUTA SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) There is no such proposal

[English]

Assistance to MPEDA members

5541. SHRI R. S. MANE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amounts spent by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) on fairs in the last three years, yearwise;

(b) whether it is a fact that a major portion of subsidies is granted to the companies in which the members of MPEDA are share-holders or have a direct economic interest;

(c) the amounts granted as loans, subsidies or any form of financial assistance to marine product companies in which their (MPEDA) members have a direct or indirect interest; and

(d) whether Government will scrutinise such allotments by MPEDA and eliminate self-serving schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R.
DAS MUNSI) : (a) The amounts spent by
the MPEDA on fairs in the last three years

were :

<i>Year</i>	<i>Rs. lakhs</i>
1983-84	6.08
1984-85	7.02
1985-86	12.87

(b) No, Sir. The share of subsidies granted by the MPEDA to the Companies in which the members of MPEDA are shareholders or have a direct economic interest in negligible i.e. less than 5 per cent yearly.

(c) MPEDA gives only subsidy assistance and does not provide loans. The amounts of subsidy given by MPEDA to such companies during 1984-85, 1985-86 and 1986-87 were Rs. 1.35 lakhs, Rs. 2.58 lakhs and Rs. 4.71 lakhs respectively.

(d) Does not arise.

Raw material for leather industry

5542. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Leather Research Institute, Madras, ordered a national survey to assess the raw material availability for the leather industry;

(b) if so, the findings of the survey; and

(c) the follow up action taken so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R.
DAS MUNSI) : (a) to (c). Report of All
India Survey on Hides and Skins conducted
by the Central Leather Research Institute
(CLRI) has not yet been received.

Awarding of new contracts to M/s Indian molasses Co. By STC

5543. SHRI AJITSINH DABHI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether during the pendency of enquiry regarding alleged malpractices in the export of molasses by M/s Indian Molasses