

(b) why the present Chairman of the National Textile Corporation is being allowed to continue even though his tenure of office expired long back; and

(c) is it true that the expenses incurred towards him by way of allowances is much greater than the pay and allowances of a full time Chairman?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The existing arrangement of a part-time Chairman and full-time Managing Director is working satisfactorily.

(b) The tenure of the present Chairman has been continued in public interest, until further orders.

(c) No. Sir.

Import of Rubber

6451. SHRI AMARSINGH RATHAWA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether rubber is being imported;

(b) whether it has any effect on the growers; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government for the safeguard of the growers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Import of rubber is allowed on a careful review of the demand and supply position of rubber and the quantum of import is limited to the minimum necessary to bridge the gap between demand and supply.

(c) Does no arise

Prohibition of parking outside Tajmahal

6452. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND

CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided not to allow tourist and other buses to park outside the Tajmahal; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) and (b) With a view to eliminate congestion at the fort-Court of the Taj Mahal, Agra, tourist coaches are allowed to set-down tourists in front of the Western Gate of the monument and park the vehicles near the shopping arcade. Tourist coaches can be called through a public address system to pick up tourists.

Due to increase in the tourist traffic it is now not possible to accommodate large number of buses coming to the Taj Mahal in front of the main gate.

Tax arrears due from various companies with head offices at Calcutta

6453. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of tax arrears due from (i) M/s Hindustan Sanitaryware and Industries Ltd. (ii) M/s Hindustan National Glass Manufacturing Company Ltd. (iii) M/s Somany Pilkington Ltd.; and (iv) M/s Soma Plumbing Fixtures Ltd.;

(b) whether all these companies are controlled by the Somany group and have their head offices at Calcutta; and

(c) what steps, if any, have been taken to realise the arrear taxes or to punish these companies for tax evasion?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) and (c)