

or being taken against any mal-practices by the Indian and foreign banks in the matter of foreign exchange dealings ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(a) Reserve Bank of India has reported that 24 Indian banks and 7 foreign banks operating in India are being allowed to become members of SWIFT.

(c) to (e). An Implementation Committee is being set up by the Reserve Bank of India to examine the terms and conditions regulating the linking up of Indian and foreign banks with SWIFT. It will also look into the role that should be carried out by the Reserve Bank of India in the monitoring of these operations and the precautionary measures that should be taken for prevention of possible mal-practices.

[*Translation*]

Transhipper Facility for Export of Iron Ore from Mormugao Port

847. SHRI JAGANNATH PRASAD : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Mormugao Port does not have the requisite facility of transhipper for exporting iron-ore to foreign countries;

(b) if so, the efforts being made by the Ministry to make available transhipper at the port as per the requirement; and

(c) the time by which same will be made available ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. Mormugao Port does have the requisite facility of transhipper for exporting iron ore to foreign countries.

(b) and (c). The questions do not arise.

[*English*]

Excise Duty Pending from Cadburys Chocolates

848. SHRI MANIK REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) The details of the excise duty pending for realisation from Cadburys, the manufacturers of chocolates;

(b) since when the money is pending for realisation;

(c) whether any show-cause notice has been issued; and

(d) if so, the action taken for the speedy recovery of this money ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Loss in N.T.C. Textile Mills

849. SHRI ANIL BASU : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the total accumulated loss of the textile mills run by the National Textiles Corporation;

(b) the factors responsible for such huge loss; and

(c) the steps, if any, taken or being taken to run the NTC mills on a profitable basis ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) National Textile Corporation has incurred losses totalling about Rs. 670 crores from 1974-75 to Sept., 1985.

(b) The major reasons for continuous losses of the mills under NTC are as follows :—

(a) Old and Obsolete machinery;

- (b) under-utilisation of installed capacity due to irregular power supply and power shortage, high cost of captive Power, etc.;
- (c) abnormal increase in cotton prices, particularly from the middle of 1980-81 to 1984-85;
- (d) increase in cost of Power, coal, dyes and chemicals, stores and spares;
- (e) excess labour force;
- (f) increase in wages/salaries;
- (g) poor work norms and low productivity.

(c) Some of the important steps taken/being taken, within the limited resources, to improve the performance of the mills under NTC are as under :—

- (i) arrangements are being made for timely procurement of cotton from different available channels;
- (ii) working capital has been replenished to make up for such losses;
- (iii) to overcome the power shortage, self-generating capacity, has been provided;
- (iv) selective modernisation programme have been adopted for result-oriented gains; for best utilisation of limited resources;
- (v) cost control methods have been introduced for reduction in cost of production at all levels;
- (vi) efforts are being made for reducing the non-operational administrative expenses;
- (vii) workers' participation scheme in the management is being encouraged to achieve higher productivity.

Production and Export of Betel-Leaves

850. SHRI GADADHAR SAHA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

- (a) the amount of foreign exchange

India earns for betel-leaves export per year;

(b) the names of the countries which are Chief importers of Indian betel-leaves; and

(c) the names of the States which are the principal producers of betel-leaves and the volume of their production ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) According to the provisional figures compiled, export of betel leaves in the last three years has been as under :—

1982-83	Rs. 40 lakhs
1983-84	Rs. 80 lakhs
1984-85	Rs. 74 lakhs

(b) Our exports are mainly to Pakistan, Baharain, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, U.K. etc.

(c) Firm figures of area and production in respect of betel-leaves are not available. West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Orissa, Kerala, Bihar, U.P. and Maharashtra are major producers of betel leaves.

Publicity Abroad for Important Tourist Centres

851. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have given publicity about the important tourist centres of our country in the foreign countries;

(b) if so, whether any place from West Bengal is there in such publicity;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government propose to include some centres from West Bengal in publicity in consultation with West Bengal Tourism Department ?