

(iv) The levy of interest tax has since been discontinued in respect of interest accruing or arising to scheduled banks after 31st March, 1985.

Promotion of Tourism in Punjab

860 SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-WALIA : Will the Minister of PARLIAMMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of tourist centres looked after by his Ministry in Punjab;

(b) whether there are any proposals for promotion of tourism in Punjab, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether there are any proposals to give financial help to Punjab Government for promotion and development of tourism industry in Punjab ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT) : (a) The Deptt. does not look after any tourist centre in the country. However, the Deptt. provides financial assistance to the States for development of infrastructure facilities for the tourist places on the basis of inter-se priority and availability of funds. The Deptt. in consultation with the State Government has identified 14 tourist centres in Punjab for phased development through the combined resources of the Centre, the State and the Private Sector.

(b) and (c). The Deptt. has received proposals for the financial assistance for providing facilities at Ropar, Kartarpur and Sirhind which have been examined and the State Government has been requested to furnish some more details before these can be processed further.

Export of Wheat on Barter Basis to African and Asian Countries

861. SHRI CHITTA MAHATA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to export wheat on barter basis to certain

African and South East Asian countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) and (b). There is at present, no specific proposal for export of wheat on barter basis to certain African and South East Asian Countries.

Export of Flue Cured Virginia Tobacco and Oil Cakes to EEC

862. SHRI SRIHARI RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that European Economic Community have shown great interest in the flue cured Virginia tobacco and oil cakes of India;

(b) whether EEC have also expressed that both these products have great potential for export; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government to this proposal of EEC and details of terms settled if any ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

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

Export of Indian Fruits and Vegetables

863. SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether he is aware that some of the Indian fruits and vegetables are 'craze' in the foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details of the fruits and vegetables being exported at present and the countries which are importing Indian fruits and vegetable for the last three years;

(c) the details of foreign exchange earned during the said period year-wise and country-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to