

- (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 PARLIAM-ENTARY 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 PARLIAM-ENTARY 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

improve the quality as also the quantity of fruits and vegetables exported ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) There is a preference for Indian fruits and vegetables, particularly the Alphonso mangoes as well as some select vegetables like Bhindi particularly in West Asian markets.

(b) and (c). Fruits exported include mangoes, Pineapple, Gauva and Cheeku. Vegetables exported include Bhindi, Beans, Aubergenes, Karela, Tinda and other assorted vegetables and onions.

The fruits and vegetables exported to major destinations during the last three

years along with foreign exchange earned are given in the statement below.

(d) Government has taken a number of measures to increase the exports of fruits and vegetables. These include, cash compensatory support, import replenishment to registered exporters, facility of duty drawback, assistance for market development, periodic dialogues with the State Agriculture Export Commissioners for increasing the production of agricultural products. In addition Institutional changes like setting up of Agricultural Products Exports Development Authority (APEDA) are envisaged National Horticulture Board has been set up under Ministry of Agriculture for integrated development of horticulture industry.

Statement

Exports of Indian fruits and vegetables

Country	Quantity : M. Tonnes Value : Rs. lakhs.					
	1982-83 (Prov.)		1983-84 (Prov.)		1984-85 (Prov.)	
	Qty.	Val.	Qty.	val	Qty.	Val.
WEST ASIA						
Bahrain	2,000	77	4,258	144	7,285	215
Kuwait	6,471	242	12,385	463	21,400	643
Oman	810	27	996	42	1,045	51
Qatar	1,300	30	2,537	97	4,930	199
Saudi Arabia	11,250	538	15,200	735	8,740	642
U.A.E.	59,270	1,314	90,900	2,162	102,701	2,200
Yemen PDR	2,350	53	—	—	890	20
SOUTH ASIA AND USSR						
Malaysia	50,682	930	38,735	859	57,728	1,774
Singapore	11,816	217	14,213	325	21,847	458
Sri Lanka	6,920	146	12,022	259	51,352	1,250
USSR	34,797	799	5,748	130	—	—