

(c) Losses of passports by individual Indian nationals have been reported to our Missions in the USA. These figures for 1986 are being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Government Directive for Economy Measures

1647. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI:
SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have recently restrained top Government officials from officially exchanging greeting cards on Independence Day, New Year Day, Republic Day and numerous other festive occasions;

(b) whether Government have also issued guidelines or directions through a circular to Ministers and top bureaucrats in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details regarding such directions issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI) : (a) to (c) Guidelines issued in December 1971 have been reiterated in February 1986 for compliance by all concerned. A copy is laid on the Table of the House [Placed in library. See No. LT 3283/86].

Visit of Foreign and Domestic Tourists to Kashmir Valley

1648. PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of foreign and domestic tourists who visited Kashmir valley in the years 1984, 1985 and 1986 (till end of October, 1986) year-wise ; and

(b) estimates, if any, of earnings made by various sectors of the State economy due to tourist trade?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (MUFTI MOHD. SYED) : (a) As per the

information available from the State Government, the number of tourists who visited Kashmir valley during the years 1984, 1985 and upto October, 1986, are as given below :-

Year	Number of tourists	
	Domestic	Foreign
1984	192,684	36,458
1985	465,599	38,015
1985 (Jan-Oct)	492,507	49,330

(b) No estimates are available in this regard.

[*Translation*]

Compulsory Retirement of Officers and Employees in Income Tax Department

1649. SHRI SARFARAZ AHMAD :
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the number of the Income tax employees and officers who have compulsorily been retired during the last one year (September, 1985 to September, 1986) ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : Two officers and three other employees of the Income-tax Department were retired compulsorily as a measure of penalty during the period from September, 1985 to September, 1986.

However, twenty seven officers and two other employees were prematurely retired during this period.

[*English*]

Separate Banking Scheme for Rural Areas

1650. SHRI H.B. PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government regarding the need for a separate banking scheme for rural areas in the country ;

(b) whether some representations have been received in this regard ; if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c) Some suggestions had been received by

Government to consider the formulation of a separate banking scheme for rural areas in the country. Considering that Commercial Banks and the Regional Rural Banks are already participating in a large number of schemes in the rural areas and that the banks are playing a major role in the implementation of the Integrated Rural Development Programme, the suggestion to have a separate banking scheme for rural areas has not been accepted. Government have no proposal, at present, before it to have a separate banking scheme for rural areas as such.

Scheme to Purchase Vehicles through State Finance Corporation

1651. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently approved a scheme under which State Finance Corporations have been asked to grant loan for purchase of tourist vehicles; and

(b) if so, the details regarding this new scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (MUFTI MOHD. SYED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Scheme of Interest Subsidy approved by the Government of India will be applicable to all approved travel agents, tour operators, car operators and State Tourism Development Corporations. These agencies have been advised to apply directly to State Finance Corporations, financial institutions and Nationalised Banks for raising loans for purchase of tourist cars and coaches.

Under the Scheme of Interest Subsidy the above categories approved by the Department of Tourism would be entitled to interest subsidy at the rate of 3% on the rate which is operative at present, for the timely repayment of loan instalments.

Impact of CCS Increase on Export of Fruits and Vegetables

1652. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE

be pleased to state :

(a) whether the recent increase in Cash Compensatory Support (CCS) for exports of fruits and vegetables has encouraged their export ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI) : (a) to (c) The revised rates of Cash Compensatory Support for exports of fruits and vegetables became effective only from 1.7.1986. As such it will take some time for the export trade to respond to the increased rates of Cash Compensatory Support.

Export of Cotton by Private Agencies

1653. SHRI C. SAMBU : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to allow export of cotton/raw cotton by private agencies ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) whether Government's decision to allow private trade in cotton export will not go against the interests of the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) and cotton growers of Andhra Pradesh ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The inter-agency allotment to various exporting agencies including private trade is done on the basis of their purchases, the expertise they have developed in exports etc.

(c) Cotton Corporation of India has been assigned a major role in exports, keeping in view its purchase operations. Andhra Pradesh Federation has also been given adequate export quota. The interests of cotton growers in Andhra Pradesh were not adversely affected by this decision.