

[English]

**Export Potential Survey in North-Eastern Region**

1616. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA ; Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a special project for surveying the export potential in the north-eastern region has been taken up by the North-Eastern Council (NEC) and an agreement made with the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade ; and

(b) what are the findings and the details of items which have a scope for export and the measures being taken to export those items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The study is in progress. On completion of field investigations, the study would outline the major findings and suggest measures for promotion of exports of the selected items from North-Eastern Region.

**Investigation into sale of Maruti Cars**

1517. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the outcome of the investigation ordered by him into the sale of Maruti cars during 1984-85 at a premium ranging between Rs. 40 to 50 thousand per car ;

(b) whether he is aware that apart from businessmen, dealers, individuals and Government Officers (including Defence Services Officers) made a profit of Rs. 30 to 50 thousand of rupees on the sale of these cars during the earlier stages ; and

(c) the steps being taken to mop up these ill-gotten wealth and tax it like 'unearned income' ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c) The Income-tax authorities were only looking into some transfers of Maruti vehicles by the original allottees in order to ascertain investment of unaccounted funds in such transactions. Since the assessment involved in such cases is Assessment Year 1985-86, the assesseees have time to file their returns up to 31.7.1985.

**Use of Travellers Cheques in Nationalised Banks**

1618. SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that traveller cheques are a useful facility to the public with increasing internal tourism, business and hazards of carrying cash; and

(b) what steps are being taken by Government to ensure that the nationalised banks provide positive incentive to the public to make more and more use of this facility by reducing to the minimum or completely doing away with the commission and helpful attitude of the staff?

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

(b) Issue of Travellers' Cheque is a facility extended by the banks to their customers. For educating the customers and to popularising Travellers' Cheques banks have been using various means of publicity. Staff attitude is a part of Customer Service to which high priority is being given. Barring one or two exceptions, generally Indian banks do not charge commission on rupee traveller Cheques.

**Aluminium Mines**

1619. SHRI B. B. RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) details of the aluminium mines in the country and the places/States where they are situated;