

such exceptions and limitations as may be made from time to time.

India's trade with Afghanistan is conducted in accordance with Indo-Afghan Trade Agreement signed in September, 1975 valid for three years. The trade with Afghanistan is conducted on a modified barter system of counter balancing imports by one country by equal value exports to the other, of goods specified in the Schedules attached to the Agreement. The accounts are maintained by the State Bank of India in Indian Rupees. Export/Imports by one country to the other of goods specified in these Schedules are payable in convertible currency.

India had been having bilateral trade plans with Egypt and Sudan for several years. These provided for trade in terms of Rupees in the case of Egypt in respect of certain commodities and £sterling in the case of Sudan. With effect from 1-1-77 trade with Sudan has changed over into free foreign exchange. In the case of Egypt also it has been agreed in principle that the trade will change over from Rupee to foreign exchange with effect from 1-1-77. Discussions are however to be held between the two countries shortly. Trade over and above the levels of the trade plans was carried on, on the basis free foreign exchange.

Export Processing Zone at Cochin

1709. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a final decision regarding the setting up of an export processing zone at Cochin; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): (a) and (b). The proposal

for establishment of a free trade zone at Cochin was received in August, 1975. The general policy about free trade zones was considered by the Government in May, 1976 and it was decided that the establishment of new free trade zone/export processing zones should not be encouraged. The State Government in Kerala was informed about this decision in December, 1976. No proposal for revision of this general decision is presently under consideration.

Development of Ponmudi (Kerala) as a Tourist Centre

1710. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a final decision regarding the development of Ponmudi in Trivandrum District of Kerala as a tourist centre;

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in taking a final decision in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) There has been no proposal under consideration in the Central Sector for the development of Ponmudi in Trivandrum District of Kerala as a tourist centre.

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

Supreme Court's Judgement on Publication activities of Charitable Trusts

1711. SHRI R. K. MHALGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the Supreme Court Judgement (I.T. Report Vol. No. 101 case of Lok Shikshan Trust) all publication activities of charitable Trusts are taken as business activities and the exemption under Section 80G