

of tax at source from the technical services fees paid by the bank to the City Bank.

Import Commitments of Sugar to various Countries during 1977-78 and 1978-79

2391. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state the country-wise break-up of import commitments of sugar to various countries of the world with the rates and quantity at which the contracts have been finalised during the year 1977-78 and 1978-79?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG): No new contracts for export of sugar has been finalised by the STC during 1977-78 or for the year 1978-79, so far. During the current financial year, a quantity of 0.45 lakh tonnes of sugar valued at Rs. 10.43 crores has however been exported, out of the quantities contracted during the preceding year (1976-77).

महाराष्ट्र में हवाई अड्डों की स्थापना

2392. श्री केशाबराव ठोड्डे: क्या पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) सरकार का महाराष्ट्र में विशेषतया मराठवाडा में कितने नये हवाई अड्डे स्थापित करने का विचार है ;

(ख) इस समय कितने हवाई अड्डों से विमानों की उड़ानें हो रही हैं ; और

(ग) क्या सरकार का विचार नाडेड हवाई अड्डे को बड़ा हवाई अड्डा बनाने का है ताकि वहां के अन्य देशों के लिये उड़ानें

हो सकें और यदि हां, तो इससे लोग कब तक लाभान्वित हो सकेंगे ?

पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्री (श्री पुष्पोत्तम कौशिक) : (क) सरकार की महाराष्ट्र में नये विमान क्षेत्र स्थापित करने की फिलहाल कोई योजनाएं नहीं हैं ।

(ख) इस समय महाराष्ट्र राज्य में विमान सेवाओं का परिचालन बम्बई के अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय विमान क्षेत्र तथा नागपुर, औरंगाबाद और गुणे के अन्तर्देशीय विमान-क्षेत्रों से किया जा रहा है ।

(ग) जी, नहीं ।

Delinking of more Grades of processed Mica to promote Export

2393. SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether exports of processed mica of delinked grades i.e. below grade 5 where private exporters have not to part with 40 per cent of export order, secured by them to MITCO increased in 1976-77 as compared to exports in the previous year after their delinking in April, 1976;

(b) what was the value/quantity of these delinked grades in 1975-76 and in 1976-77; and

(c) if exports of delinked grades of processed mica have increased, whether Government are considering the question of delinking more grades of processed mica to promote exports of processed mica?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG): (a) The exports of delinked grades of

processed mica during 1976-77 were lower by 18.44 per cent by volume and higher by 23.13 per cent by value as compared to 1975-76.

(b) The value and quantity of these delinked grades during 1975-76 and 1976-77 were as under:—

	Value (Rs. lakhs)	Quantity (in tonnes)
1975-76	536	16,560
1976-77	660	13,507

(c) As there was a fall in the exports of delinked grades of processed mica by volume during 1976-77, as compared to 1975-76, Government would like to watch the progress of exports of these grades during the current year before considering any change in the present pattern of mica trade.

Bilateral Settlement entered with L.I.C. Employees Association

2394. SHRI SHAMBHU NATH CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a bilateral settlement entered into by the Government of India with the All India Insurance Employees Association under the Industrial Disputes Act was repudiated by the L.I.C. (Modification of Settlements) Act, 1976 overriding the judgement of the Calcutta High Court which held that the Bonus to L.I.C. employees as per the settlement was an accrued due and a property under Article 31 of the Constitution;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to honour the settlement; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) to (c). The Government of India had not entered into any bilateral settlement with the employees of LIC in regard to any matters including payment of bonus. However the Corporation had entered into a settlement with its class III and class IV employees which *inter-alia* provided for payment of bonus at the rate of 15 per cent of annual salary without any ceiling. The settlement was current for a period of four years from 1-4-1973 to 31-3-1977. Under this settlement bonus to Class III and Class IV employees for the years 1973-74, and 1974-75 had been paid.

2. With the amendment of the payment of Bonus Act 1965, by the Payment of Bonus Amendment Act, 1976, the Central Government decided that beginning with the accounting year 1974/1974-75 employees of non-competing public sector undertakings including LIC, GIC and the Banks may be paid *ex-gratia* amounts in lieu of bonus to be determined by the Government after taking into account wage level, financial circumstances and other relevant factors. The *ex-gratia* amount was not to exceed 10 per cent of salary/wages.

3. In order to bring LIC employees on par with the employees of Banks, GIC and other non-competing public sector undertakings it became necessary to modify the relevant provisions of the subsisting settlements of 1974 in so far as they pertained to payment of bonus. For this purpose the LIC (Modification of settlement) Act, 1975 was passed by Parliament. It came into force w.e.f. 1st April, 1975.

4. On non-payment of bonus to Class III and IV employees for the year 1975-76 according to settlement of 1974 along with the salary of April, 1976, the All India Insurance Employees Association filed a petition in the Calcutta High Court praying for a declaration that the 1974 settlement was binding and to restrain LIC from re-