

Popularity of Indian Sports Goods in foreign countries

2415. SHRI S. S. SOMANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian sports goods are getting popularity in foreign countries;

(b) if so, the names of such items and the countries which have demanded from India during the current financial year; and

(c) the extent of foreign exchange likely to be earned during 1977-78?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The items of important sports goods from India and the countries demanding these are:

ITEMS: Footballs, Hockey sticks, Cricket bats, Hockey and Cricket balls, Sports cups, rubber balloons etc.

COUNTRIES: U.K., West Germany, Australia, U.S.A., Malaysia, Singapore, Canada.

(c) The foreign exchange earnings from exports of sports goods in 1977-78 are provisionally estimated to be to the tune of Rs. 18 crores.

Memorandum from retired Government employees regarding pension law of 1871

2416. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any memorandum from the retired Government employees has been submitted to Government wanting the existing Pen-

sion Law 1871 and the Rules made thereunder, both by the Central and State Governments to be replaced by a comprehensive and progressive law keeping in view the changed concept of the State functions and new socio-economic realities; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) and (b). Associations of pensioners have been demanding replacement of the Pensions Act, 1871. The Act does not regulate matters such as scales of pension, grant of relief to pensioners and the procedure for sanctioning pensions; these matters are regulated by the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972 and various executive instructions issued from time to time. The changes in administrative structure, employment position and pay structure of the employees have not rendered the Act obsolete. Nor has the Act stood in the way of enhancement of the pensionary benefits of the retired employees and their families from time to time, which has been achieved by amending the relevant rules and issue of executive instructions.

As regards State Governments, they look after their own statutes relating to pensions and Central Government cannot legislate for them.

Suggestions made by FICCI regarding economic growth

2417. SHRI K. A. RAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the FICCI has suggested a package of measures to be taken by Government to help it to quicken the pace of economic growth;