

सरकार द्वारा सेवा से अनिवार्यतः निवृत्त कर दिया गया था, किन् परिस्थितियों में बैंक आफ राजस्थान में उच्चतम वेतन पर नियुक्त करना पड़ा था ?

वित्त तथा राजस्व और बैंकिंग मंत्री (श्री एच०एम० पटेल) : बैंक आफ राजस्थान गैर-सरकारी क्षेत्र का बैंक है। गैर-सरकारी क्षेत्र के बैंकों में अधिकारियों की नियुक्ति करना, संबंधित बैंक के कार्यक्षेत्र के अंतर्गत आने वाला प्रशासनिक मामला है। बैंक आफ राजस्थान ने रिजर्व बैंक को सूचित किया है कि उन्हें ऐसे अधिकारी की आवश्यकता थी जिसे श्रमिक कानूनों और कार्मिक मामलों का अनुभव हो और उन्होंने श्री टी० सी० जैन को पहले संविदा पर 2 वर्ष के लिए और बाद में, निदेशक मंडल की स्वीकृति से, नियमित रूप से प्रबन्धक (कार्मिक) के पद पर नियुक्त किया। श्री जैन ने राज्य सरकार की स्वीकृति से बैंक में अपना कार्यभार संभाला और उनकी नियुक्ति में कुछ भी असामान्य या अनियमित नहीं था।

Foreign Equity allowed to Sterling tea Companies under Fera

3345. **SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPA:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sterling tea companies are allowed to keep 74 per cent equity in Indian Companies under the Foreign Exchange Regulations Act as against 40 per cent in case of other Companies;

(b) if so, the reason for this difference;

(c) what is the deadline being given to the sterling tea companies to reduce their equity to the extent of 74 per cent; and

(d) which are the sterling tea companies operating in the country and how many of them are expected to dilute their equity within the deadline date given?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) and (b). Under the Guidelines laid down for the administration of Section 29 of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973, foreign companies operating in India may be permitted to retain non-resident interest upto 74 or 51 or 40 per cent depending on the nature and character of the activities of the companies concerned. Tea companies have been permitted to retain non-resident interest upto 74 per cent because of the position occupied by tea in our exports.

(c) The time-limit for Indianisation expires towards the end of this year in most cases and in the first half of next year in other cases.

(d) Attention is invited to the details given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 5335 dated 29-7-1977. All the companies have submitted their Indianisation proposals and they are under consideration.

Setting up of an alternative Export Agency for Coir Goods

3346. **SHRI B. K. NAIR:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that a substantial percentage of the coir goods exported from Alleppey and the surrounding areas by licensed exporters is actually manufactured by small factory owners; and

(b) whether he will consider the setting up of an alternative exporting agency so as to ensure fair prices for the actual producers and reasonable wages for the workmen employed by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Fair prices for producers and reasonable wages for workers are sought to be ensured by the Coir Board through its Purchase Price (Enforcement) Scheme, 1976.

Cashewnuts Industries in Kanyakumari District (Tamil Nadu)

3347. SHRI KUMARI ANANTHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of industries engaged in cashewnuts have gone idle in Kanyakumari District in Tamil Nadu in recent years for want of cashewnuts; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Central Government and Tamil Nadu State Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG): (a) There are reports that due to shortage of raw cashewnuts for processing some units in Tamil Nadu and other States face periods of unemployment. The minimum requirement of the industry is around 3 lakh tonnes while the indigenous production of cashewnuts is estimated to be between 1.4 to 1.85 lakh tonnes. The gap of about 1.5 lakh tonnes between the requirement and availability is to be made up from the imports. During the period of January to October in the current year, imports of raw cashewnuts have been only 61,995 tonnes compared to 67,698 tonnes during the same period in 1976 and 1,35,815 tonnes in 1975 and 1,77,289 tonnes during the same period in 1974.

(b) The Government of India have taken up schemes both in the State Sector and Central Sector for increasing the area under cashew and also for improving productivity of the existing plantations with a view to

increase production of cashewnuts in the country. In addition, Cashew Corporation of India has agreed to make available funds upto Rs. 4 crores for state sponsored, viable and export oriented schemes of cashew plantations. It is learnt that Government of Tamil Nadu have also taken steps to develop schemes for laying out demonstration plots for improving cashew plantations by vegetative propagation, establishment of progeny orchards and making other R and D efforts to improve yield of cashew in the State.

Cashew Corporation of India have also entered into contracts for import of about 30,000 tonnes from the 1977-78 crop from East Africa and are hopeful about being able to import even larger quantities in the year 1978. It is expected that with the above measures, availability of raw cashewnuts to the processing industry may improve.

Transport Contractors in Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation

3348. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of transport contractors operating in Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation to transport ore from various points; and

(b) the money paid to them by Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG): (a) The number of transport contractors engaged by MMTC during the current year for transport of ore from various points is six.