

(b) Information about export of bicycles during 1977-78 is available for April-December, 1977 which is as under :—

(Figures in Lakhs)

April-December, 1977

	Quantity	Value
Export of bicycles	2.51	Rs. 608.00

Exports were made to fifty two countries, the major ones being Iran, Nigeria, Tanzania, Afghanistan and Uganda. The major Indian exporters are : M/s. Hero Cycles Pvt. Ltd., Ludhiana, M/s. Atlas Cycle Industries Ltd., Sonapat, M/s. Hind Cycles, Bombay, M/s. Avon Cycles, Ludhiana, M/s. Road Master Industries, Rajpura and M/s. T. I. Cycles, Madras.

Grant of Pension to Freedom Fighters from West Bengal

2374. PROF. DILIP CHAKRAVARTY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of freedom fighters cases recommended by the West Bengal State Advisory Board pending decisions of the Central Government since July 1977 to date ;

(b) number of cases out of them belonging to district of 24-Parganas ; and

(c) the reasons for delay with outlines of the measures taken/proposed to be taken to expedite the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIKLAL MANDAL) :

(a) 83

(b) 18

(c) These cases have been referred back to the State Government for obtaining additional information/clarification. Final decisions will be taken on receipt of their reports.

Appointment of New Chief of Air Staff

2375. SHRI T. A. PAI :
SHRI ARJUN SINGH BHADORIA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) has it been brought to the notice of Government that unusual procedures

were adopted in the recent appointment of Air Marshal Latif ;

(b) why was this done; and

(c) has it created unhappiness in the ranks of the Air Force ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM) : (a) It is not true that unusual procedures were adopted in the recent appointment of Air Marshal Latif as the next Chief of Air Staff.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Nothing has come to Govt. notice which may lead one to believe that the appointment has created unhappiness in the ranks of the Air Force. Air Marshal Latif is the senior most, an outstanding and popular officer of the I.A.F. and his appointment as the next Chief of Air Staff has generally, been well received.

Tribal Development Plan for 1978-83

2376. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) salient features of the Tribal Development Plan for 1978-83 ;

(b) whether it is a fact that while formulating the Draft, all proposals of the Government of Madhya Pradesh were not considered for inclusion ;

(c) if so, details of the proposal submitted by the Madhya Pradesh Government ; and

(d) the reaction of Government in this regard ?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI) : (a) The attention of the Hon'ble member is invited to the Draft Plan for 1978-83 which contains the desired information.

(b) to (d). Madhya Pradesh's Five Year Plan Draft, including proposals for tribal areas, are still awaited.