

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) and (b). The Paper on National Tourism Policy is in the process of finalisation. The delay is due to the fact that such an important paper requires to be finalised in consultation with various authorities concerned. The Policy will be announced as soon as it is finalised.

#### Cases of Excise Evasion pending Adjudication

2804. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to establish intelligence wing for Central Excise;

(b) whether Government have evolved any new policy regarding large cases of excise evasion which were pending adjudication; and

(c) if so, the steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGRAWAL): (a) It has been accepted in principle that a separate organisation should be set up to deal with the problem of combating evasion of Central Excise revenue and other malpractices relating to Central Excise. However, a final decision is yet to be taken in the matter.

(b) and (c). Instructions have been issued to the effect that a list of excise offences involving over Rs. 1 lakh in each case should be maintained and that such cases should be disposed of by the Collectors within a period of six months.

#### Role of Banking System in promoting well being of Weaker Sections of Society

2805. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the measures taken by Government to strengthen the role of

the banking system in promoting the well being of the weaker sections of our society; and

(b) to what extent have these measures proved to be effective in attaining the above objectives?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL) (a) and (b). Though measures are continuously being taken to ensure that an increasingly larger share of bank credit flows to the weaker sections, some of the more important ones are:—

(1) With a view to make credit available at a lower cost, interest rates have been generally reduced. A ceiling on the lending rate has also been placed with reference to advances under special categories like agriculture, small scale industry and for other weaker sections of the rural community.

(2) 48 Regional Rural Banks, with 1200 branches, have been set up to meet the credit needs of the small and marginal farmers and other weaker sections. The amount disbursed as at the end of December, 1977 increased to Rs. 43.19 crores from Rs. 8.12 crores as at the end of December, 1976 covering 497684 and 101415 borrowal accounts respectively.

(3) Public Sector Banks have been asked to ensure that atleast 33 1/3 per cent of the total advances should flow to the neglected sector by the end of March, 1979. Banks have also been advised to achieve a credit deposit ratio of 60 percent in their rural and semi urban branches by the end of March, 1979.

(4) The Differential Rate of Interest Scheme, under which credit is available at 4 percent p.a. to the weakest among the weak, has been extended to cover the entire country. The amount outstanding under the Scheme as at the end of December, 1977 increased to Rs. 67.62 crores from Rs. 47.24 crores as at the end of December, 1976 covering 1391440 and