

(b) if so, the review results and the follow-up actions?

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

(b) The deliberations at the Conference helped to identify areas of constraints inhibiting the trade between India and the countries of the region and locate the possibilities of further expansion of trade in various ways. Necessary followup action where necessary has already been initiated at all levels.

Tandon Committee Report on Management of Marketing Activities in Tea

1945. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5205 on the 31st March, 1978 regarding comprehensive review of the existing system of Tea Marketing and state:

(a) whether the Committee headed by Sri Prakash Tandon to go into the entire management of marketing activities in tea has since submitted its report;

(b) if so, essential features of the report; and

(c) action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Casual and Contract Labourers against regular and leave vacancies in L.I.C.

1946. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that L.I.C. employs casual and contract labourers against regular and leave vacancies;

(b) if so, the number of such casual and contract workers and their period of services;

(c) whether the L.I.C. consider it desirable to absorb them in the permanent cadre; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) and (b). L.I.C. engages casual labourers as Badli workers against leave vacancies. No contract labour is used for such appointments. As on 31st March, 1978 the number of persons on the panels of Badli workers was 1233 in the category of peons and 357 in the categories of watchmen, liftmen, sweepers etc. The information in respect of the duration of service put in by each and every Badli workers is not available. However, 117 Badli workers worked for more than 180 days in each of the years 1975, 1976 and 1977 and 182 Badli workers worked for more than 180 days in each of the years 1976 and 1977.

(c) and (d). The whole system of Badli appointments and the question of absorption of Badli workers against the regular vacancies based on certain criteria is under consideration of the L.I.C.

Overdrafts by States

1947. SHRI S. R. DAMANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre has laid down norms in regard to overdrafts made by States with the Reserve Bank of India; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the overdraft withdrawals have prior approval of the Union Finance Ministry and, if not,

what are the reasons for violations of set norms by the States; and

(c) what is the Government of India's thinking on this matter?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) As a matter of norm, the States are not expected to incur any overdrafts.

(b) In the case of States it is not always possible to maintain an exact balance between the flow of revenues and the pace of expenditure. To accommodate the possible excess of expenditure over the revenues for short periods, the Reserve Bank of India has authorised ways and means limits which can be availed of by the State Governments. Since monetary transactions of the State Governments take place simultaneously at numerous treasuries/sub-treasuries and banks, overdrafts arise when the disbursements on account of the State Governments exceed their receipts and the authorised ways and means limits. The Ministry of Finance do not approve of such overdrafts which are unauthorised. The State Governments are expected to take immediate steps to correct the imbalance in their accounts.

(c) The Central Government has always held that overdrafts on the Reserve Bank of India cannot be treated as a budgetary resource by the State Governments and has, therefore, been repeatedly impressing upon them the necessity to avoid recourse to such overdrafts.

Slow-down in Clearance of Imported Edible Oils at Bombay

1946. SHRI S. R. DAMANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been much slow-down in clearance of imported edible oils at Bombay docks recently and if so, the details and reasons thereof;

(b) to what extent this has resulted in losses to the S.T.C. and also dislocation in supplies to consumers; and

(c) what action has since been taken to expedite clearance of this commodity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL): (a) There has been some slow-down in the clearance of imported oils at Bombay docks recently. This is mainly owing to unprecedented arrivals of edible oils in Bombay port imported both by the STC and on private traders' account.

(b) It is estimated that STC may have to incur demurrage of US dollars 2.3 lakhs approximately equivalent to Rs. 19 lakhs. This has, however, not resulted in any undue, dislocation of supplies to consumers.

(c) The following action has been taken:

(i) For enabling STC to unload imported oils more expeditiously, a decision has been taken to reserve one berth on an annual hire basis at Bombay.

(ii) To the extent possible, STC are diverting vessels to ports other than Bombay, and private importers have also been similarly advised.

Buffer Stock of Explosives and Carbon Black

1949. SHRI S. R. DAMANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are proposals to create buffer stock by import of strategic items like explosives and carbon black;

(b) whether such items were imported in the past and if so, the details thereof for the last three years; and