

Tourist Centres Sanctioned to Andhra Pradesh

930. SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU:
Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tourist centres sanctioned to Andhra Pradesh this year;

(b) if so, the centres; and

(c) the amount to be spent on these centres?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) to (c). The Central Department of Tourism does not sanction the development of tourist centres as such but taken up specific schemes for the development of facilities at centres which are already visited by tourists or have the potential to attract them. During the year, Tourist Bungalows at Mantralayam and Warangal were completed and are likely to be commissioned shortly. The total amount sanctioned for these is Rs. 8,03,100 and Rs. 10,35,800 respectively.

Decline in Exports in the First Quarter of the Current Year

931. SHRI M. V. CHANDRA-SHEKHARA MURTHY:

SHRI K. A. RAJAN:

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY:

SHRI A. R. BADRI NARAYAN:

SHRI VASANT SATHE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that exports in the first quarter at the current year have fallen behind the figure during the corresponding period last year by Rs. 210 crores; and

(b) if so, the main reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG): (a) Data regarding India's overall exports (including re-exports) are as follows:

	Rs. crores		Rs. (Crores)	
	1978-79	1977-78	1978-79	1977-78
	April-June (Provisional)	April-June (Revised)	April-Sept (provisional)	April-Sept. (provisional) (Revised)
Exports including Re-exports	1165.90*	1224.68	1375.88	2497.36*
				2584.66
				2713.63

NOTE :—*This is likely to go up when revised figures are received.

(b) The decline in exports is due to causes both international and domestic and vary from item to item.

The main reasons are as follows:

(i) Recessionary conditions prevailing in the developed countries and the protectionist measures adopted by them.

(ii) Fall in the rupee value of the dollar has caused considerable erosion of the export realisation in rupee terms.

(iii) Considerable fall in international prices of items like tea (unit value realisation falling from Rs. 27.42 per Kg. in April-Sept. 77 to Rs. 20.30 per Kg. in April-Sept. 78), Coffee unit value realisation falling

from (Rs. 40.15 per Kg. to Rs. 26.61 per Kg) etc. and thereby reduction in export earnings.

(iv) Reduction in exportable surpluses have been caused by various domestic factors like—

(a) Increase in domestic demand in case of iron and steel, cement, etc.

(b) Shortage of power

(c) Transport bottlenecks

(d) Congestion at ports.

(e) Industrial unrest and strikes particularly at ports.

(f) Unprecedented floods in many States like UP, Bihar, West Bengal etc.

(g) Reduced availability of imported raw cashewnuts.

(h) Difficulties faced by exporters due to certain local policies like pricing of raw cashewnuts, restriction on movements of cashewnuts and husk (coir) and heavy sales tax on exportable commodities like pepper.

(v) Acquisition of new science and technology and new capabilities have created certain difficulties in having more exports to Rupee trade countries as imports from such countries have come down.

(vi) Deliberate policy of Government to restrict/control export of certain commodities to enable sufficient domestic availability at reasonable prices and to thus reduce the social cost of exports.

Sale of Gold under Gold Jewellery Export Replenishment Scheme by S.B.I.

932. SHRI M. V. CHANDRA SHEKHARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government had authorised the State Bank of India to

sell pure gold at Rs. 580/- per ten grams to the holders of release order under the Gold Jewellery Export Replenishment Scheme which come in force on 21st August, 1978; and

(b) if so, how much gold was sold under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG): (a) Yes, Sir. This price was announced under the Department of Commerce Public Notice No. 62-ITC(PN)/78, dated the 19th August, 1978. This selling price was raised to Rs. 645/- under Public Notice No. 79-ITC(PN)/78, dated the 3rd November, 1978.

(b) No sale of gold has so far taken place under the scheme.

Setting up of Enquiry Committee to find out Areas of Corruption in Customs and Excise Department

933. SHRI M. V. CHANDRA SHEKHARA MURTHY :
SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set up an enquiry committee to find out the areas and points of corruption in customs and excise department;

(b) if so, who are its members and what are the other points the committee has been asked to enquire into; and

(c) when the committee is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGRAWAL): (a) and (b). In the course of a meeting with senior officers on the 1st and 2nd September, 1978, the Minister of State for Finance (Excise and Customs) desired that a small group of senior officers should, as part of vigilance work, spot out the areas, points, modes and