

(b) the number of persons sent to each country from India under the above programme during the last three years, year-wise along with their fields of studies;

(c) what is the number of persons proposed to be sent to each country under the programme during the next two years, year-wise with their fields of studies; and

(d) what is the procedure for selection of persons under the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Set Back in State Trading of Mica

5418. SHRI A. K. ROY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) total amount of Mica production in the country and the amount covered by the State Trading Corporation in 1977-78 in the Tilayia-Kodrma zone of Bihar;

(b) whether the state trading of Mica has suffered a set back in last two years, if so, reasons thereof; and

(c) the extent the State Trading has benefited the small Mica industries and the workmen employed there, facts in details?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BAIG): (a) Crude mica production in India was 9352 tonnes during 1977 and 9246 tonnes during 1978. Mica Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (MITCO)—a public sector undertaking—which is the canalising agency for export of processed mica, does not engage itself in mica mining and production of crude mica.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The main socio-economic objective of MITCO is to help the weaker section in mica trade. Most of MITCO's purchases are effected from this section.

MITCO has started five processing factories in Bihar and Andhra Pradesh, directly employing about 600 workers, who enjoy best conditions of service in mica industry. MITCO also supports around 5000 workers employed in the processing units of its about 1000 weaker section business associates on whom regular orders are placed by MITCO.

MITCO has set up its own mica fabrication plant and Dry Ground Mica Powder Units. MITCO has also succeeded in identifying collaborators for establishment of mica paper, mica capacitor and other industries using mica, negotiations in respect of which are in progress.

मध्य प्रदेश से आयकर इन्स्पेक्टरों का बचप

5419. श्री रामबारी क्या उच्च प्रदान मंत्री तथा वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) 1978-79 के दौरान मध्य प्रदेश से आयकर इन्स्पेक्टरों के पद के लिए कितने व्यक्ति चुने गए;

(ख) उन में से कितने व्यक्तियों को झषी तक नियुक्त नहीं किया गया है और उस के क्या कारण हैं;

(ग) चुने हुए व्यक्तियों को कब नियुक्त किया जायेगा; और

(घ) मध्य प्रदेश आयकर द्वारा कितने प्रतिरिक्त आयकर इन्स्पेक्टरों की मांग की गई है और इस मायले में सरकार ने क्या कार्यवाही की है ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुलफिकारउल्लाह) : (क) से. (ख) सुचना इकट्ठी की जा रही है और सबमिटर पर रख दी जायेगी ।

Abolition of Gold Control Order

5420. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the DEPUTY PRIME

MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that since the formation of new Government at the Centre all associations engaged in Gold business have been representing to Government for abolition of Gold Control Order;

(b) if so, whether Government will reconsider the matter to bring the changes in this regard and meet the demands of the business community; and

(c) if so, what are the specific demands of those associations for bringing changes in the Gold Control Orders and Government reaction thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): (a) Government have received representations from various associations of goldsmiths and licensed dealers and also individuals proposing either abolition of the Gold (Control) Act or significant amendments to it.

(b) and (c). The Government have appointed a Committee under the Chairmanship of the Governor, Reserve Bank of India to review gold policy in all its aspects and make appropriate recommendations. The various proposals/demands for amendment of Gold (Control) Act received from the associations have been placed before the Committee for consideration. The report of the Committee is awaited.

Import of Molasses

5421. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN KADANNAPPALLI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Trading Corporation is going to import 5 lakh tonnes of molasses; and

(b) if so, the reasons?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Increase in Excise Duty on Petroleum Products

5422. SHRI KIRIT BIKRAM DEB BURMAN: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the State Governments have protested against the proposed increases in Excise duty on petroleum products;

(b) if so, which State Governments have made protests representations and the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Chief Minister of West Bengal had addressed a communication on 3-3-79 to the Prime Minister in which he had, among other things, protested against the increase in excise duties on petroleum products including kerosene proposed in the 1979 Budget. He had also requested that these proposals should be revised.

(c) In the context of the steep increase in international prices of crude oil announced by the OPEC and the need to restrain consumption of petroleum products it is not feasible to reduce the current level of duties of petroleum products.