

revise the existing export policy of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES & STEEL & MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) & (b). The Export Policy is announced for each financial year April-March. The Export Policy for the next year i.e. April 1980-March 1981 is under formulation. It is not possible to give details of the Export Policy at this stage.

Measures to curb smuggling between India and Sri Lanka

552. SHRI AMARSING V. RATHAWA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state; Measures taken by Government to curb smuggling between India and Sri Lanka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA): According to reports received by Government, smuggling between India and Sri Lanka is under check.

The measures taken by Government include strengthening of intelligence and preventive set up, providing the staff deployed on Anti-smuggling work with vehicles, vessels and other equipment so as to make them more effective, intensification of patrolling on the high seas and on the coast and wireless net-work coverage. Periodical conferences between senior Enforcement officers of India and Sri Lanka are also held to review and co-ordinate the anti-smuggling measures taken by the two countries to combat smuggling.

Investment in and return from public Sector

553. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total investment in the Public Sector at present in the country;

(b) what was the annual return from this investment in 1979-80; and;

(c) whether Government propose to adopt measures to improve this return and the measures thought of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA):

(a) The total investment in Public Sector Enterprises of the Central Government at the end of March, 1979, by way of equity and loan was Rs. 15,602 crores. The capital employed which represents the net fixed assets plus current assets minus current liabilities in these enterprises was Rs. 14,173 crore.

(b) The annual accounts of public enterprises by and large, are finalised on financial year basis. The accounts for the year 1979-80 are not yet due. The percentage of gross profit to capital employed for the year 1978-79, for which information is available, was 7.59 per cent.

(c) Working of the public enterprises is constantly reviewed. Apart from performance review meetings held by the Secretaries of the administrative Ministries, a Committee at the Ministerial level has also been appointed to monitor availability of the infrastructural facilities like coal, power, transport, etc. to enable public enterprises to achieve better capacity utilisation, higher production and increased profitability.

Availability of funds to States from Small Saving Schemes

554. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to revise the decision of the previous Government as regards the burden of repayment arising from the Small Savings Schemes;

(b) whether the Seventh Finance Commission's unanimous recommendation that 75 per cent of the funds

realised under different small savings schemes should be made available to States as permanent loans would continue to be ignored by this Government; and

(c) whether this was a conspicuous case where a unanimous recommendation of the Finance Commission has failed to receive Union Government's acceptance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA):
(a) to (c). The Seventh Finance Commission has not recommended that 75 per cent of the funds realized under different small savings schemes should be made available to the States as permanent loans.

The recommendation of the Commission is that the loans given to States for small savings, outstanding at the end of 31st March, 1979, may be consolidated and converted into 'loans in-perpetuity' and the States need not make any repayment on this account to the Centre. The Government of India did not accept the concept of 'loans-in-perpetuity'. In order, however, not to disturb the quantum of relief to the States in the repayment of Central loans, worked out by the Commission, the Government of India decided that the States need not make any repayment on account of Small savings loans outstanding as on 31st March, 1979, during the five years, from 1979-80, covered by the recommendations of the Commission.

There is no proposal before the Government to revise the above decision.

Development of Shirdi for Tourists and Pilgrims

555. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has received any proposal from the Government of

Maharashtra to develop Shirdi (place of pilgrimage in District Ahmednagar) for facilities of tourists and pilgrims; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government indicating details of the development contemplated and whether they are also considering to construct an airport at that place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KARTIK ORAON): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Bank loans to educated unemployed and uneducated artisans

556. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are thinking of revising the policy regarding banks giving loans to the educated unemployed young men as well as uneducated artisans in their traditional professions; and

(b) if so, what is the revised policy of Government to help the educated unemployed young men and artisans to enable them to stand on their own legs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA):
(a) & (b). The target set for the public sector banks to lend a minimum of 33.3 per cent of their total advances to the priority sectors, which include educated unemployed youngmen and uneducated artisans, has been raised to 40 per cent. Banks have also been advised to pursue the Differential Rate of Interest Scheme with greater vigour. Under this Scheme, Government have now permitted banks to provide composite loans to eligible borrowers upto Rs 6,500/- which will help educated unemployed youngmen and uneducated artisans in productive activities.