

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. There was a strike in the establishment of a Transport Contractor, M/s. Prem Chand Jain in 1979 in Ari-Dongari Mines and as a result some of his workers are still out of job.

(b) to (d). As a consequence of the strike, M/s. Prem Chand Jain closed his establishment and so the work was awarded to a new contractor M/s. Guman Mal who resume work from 14th May, 1980. The new transport contractor has engaged 226 workers who were working earlier with the old contractor on internal transport work, and he expects to engage the remaining 101 workers in due course. Bhilai Steel Plant management is not responsible for engagement or disengagement of the contractor's workers.

ITDC for Joint Ventures with International Groups of Hotel Abroad

7479. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether ITDC is planning for joint ventures with International Groups of Hotel abroad; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) No, Sir. At present the Corporation has no proposal for joint ventures with International Groups of Hotel abroad.

(b) Does not arise.

Carpet Exporters

7480. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) names of carpet exporters and countries to which exported during the last five years (country-wise);

(b) total value of exchange earned in 1978-79 and 1979-80; and

(c) the measures Government are taking to boost up the carpet export trade and to check exploitation of carpet weavers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Statistics of exports are not maintained partywise. During the last five years, Indian hand-knotted woollen carpets were exported to various countries of the world and in particular to:

- (a) West Germany.
- (b) U.S.A.
- (c) Switzerland.
- (d) U.K.
- (e) Belgium, Luxemburg.
- (f) Netherlands.
- (g) Canada.

(b) total value of foreign exchange earned during 1978-79, and 1979-80 on the export of hand-knotted woollen carpets was as under:

1978-79 Rs. 99.37 Crores.
1979-80 Rs. 82.67 Crores (Provisional).

(c) Among the measures taken by the Government to boost exports of hand-knotted woollen carpets are the following:

(i) massive programme of training in carpet weaving for expanding production base;

(ii) steps to improve quality standard in terms of texture, design, colour etc.

(iii) cash compensatory support on export of carpets;

(iv) grant of Replenishment licences and duty draw-back at appropriate rates.