

(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.

(v) sponsoring of sales-cum-study teams;

(vi) import of raw wool on OGL for production of quality yarn;

(vii) facility of import of raw wool without payment of duty with suitable export obligation;

(viii) import duty on raw wool has been reduced to 45 per cent from the earlier level of 75 per cent *ad-valorem*;

Increased demand of carpet weavers arising out of growing exports has led to increased wages of carpet weavers

#### Indian Businessmen Abroad offered to invest in Indian Hotel Industry

7481. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Indian businessmen abroad offered to invest large sums of money in Indian hotel industry; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDU-LAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir, Indian businessmen settled abroad have, occasionally, shown interest in investing in hotels in India. However, no proposal has so far taken concrete shape.

#### Opening of Kaniska Ashok Hotel

7482. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ITDC's Kaniska Ashok Hotel project is being delayed,

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the expected date of opening the Kaniska Hotel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDU-LAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The delay is mainly due to non-availability of cement and steel in adequate quantities.

(c) Out of the 300 rooms, about 200 rooms are expected to be commissioned by December 1980 and the balance 100 rooms by June 1981.

#### Import of Revolvers/Pistols by S.T.C. for Sale to Public

7483. SHRI N. E. HORO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details regarding the imported revolvers/pistols by the State Trading Corporation during 1979-80 for sale to the public;

(b) whether this practice is done through arms dealers and collected money in advance from the dealers;

(c) if so, the number of weapons and their brands which were imported giving C.I.F. value of each brand; and

(d) whether all weapons of such type have been distributed without any cut from the number of weapons originally allotted by State Trading Corporation while collecting money in advance from dealers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). The following revolvers/pistols of .32 bore were imported during 1979-80 at favourable import prices:—

#### Revolvers

1. Arminius	1000 pieces
2. Harrington and Richardson	500 "
3. Smith and Wesson	1000 "

#### Pistons

1. Llana	400 "
2. Carl Walther	250 "