

Territories. The Conference deliberated at length the development of tourism on the Travel Circuit concept, provision of facilities and compilation of statistics for domestic tourism; improvement in tourist services; incentives to tourist industry and organisation of training programmes.

(c) The Conference discussed the question of giving incentives and concessions to tourist industry such as reservation of sites for hotels, allotment of sites on annual rent basis, interest subsidy on hotel loans, priority in the procurement of material, supply of power and water to hotels at rates as applicable to other Industrial undertakings, relaxation of FAR/FSI restrictions, etc., and recommended that suitable incentives and concessions be made available by the Centre and State Governments. It commended the example set by Orissa in treating hotels as industry under its Industrial Policy of 1980 and recommended that the other State Governments accord similar recognition to the hotel sector.

The Conference also recommended that State Governments and Union Territories may (i) take appropriate action to prevent harassment of tourists by touts, beggars and other anti-social elements; (ii) give preference in the grant of all-India permits to India Tourists Development Corporation, State Tourism Development Corporations and tourist car operations/travel agencies approved by the Central Department of Tourism. It further recommended that training programmes be stepped up so as to provide efficient and courteous service to tourists.

Selection for Post of Executive Director in Project and Equipment Corporation of India

4467. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA :
SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state ;

(a) the particulars and qualifications of the persons selected and posted during October/November, 1981 for the post of Executive Director in the Project and Equipment Corporation of India Ltd. by the selection committee constituted by the Ministry and the number of candidates appeared ;

(b) were there any candidate more qualified than the selected ones ; and

(c) if so, how is it that highly qualified candidates were rejected by the committee and the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN):

(a) Out of the fifteen candidates interviewed by the Selection Committee duly constituted by the Public Enterprises Selection Board, Shri C. L. Subramanian was considered to be most qualified and was selected for the post of Executive Director, PEC Ltd. during October/November, 1981. His qualifications are :

- (1) B. E. (Chem. Engg).
- (2) Diploma in Business Management.
- (3) Diploma in Refrigeration and Air Conditioning.
- (4) Associate Member of Institute of Fuel, London.
- (5) Associate Member of Institute of Chemical Engineers, Calcutta.

(b) and (c). Question does not arise.

Second Phase of Steel Plant at Salem Tamil Nadu

4468. SHRI M. KANDASWAMY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to have second phase of steel plant in Salem, Tamil Nadu, since the first phase has already been completed ;

(b) if so, the allocation made for the second phase and the extent of employment opportunities that the second phase will generate in Salem ; and

(c) if not, reasons for not having the second phase ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). The first phase of the Salem Steel Project was commissioned only on September 13, 1981. Second phase of the Project can be considered only after the present production stabilises its economic viability established and in the light of financial resources that become available.

Levy of Higher Excise Duty on Refrigerators

4469. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the domestic refrigerator is an essential item of household and it forms a part of the household — Electrical Appliances category along with television, cooking range, washing machine, mixers, grinders and toasters etc;

(b) if so, the reasons why the refrigerator has been specified under a different Central Excise Tariff from that of the Excise Tariff item under which the other household Appliances have been listed; and

(c) the reason why the refrigerator has been levied higher excise duty than what is applicable on other appliances mentioned above, such as television ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SAWAI SINGH SISODIA) : (a) and (b). For the purposes of excise duty, classification of a particular

commodity or goods is determined by the description of goods listed under various Items of the First Schedule to the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944. Item No. 29A of the said First Schedule relating to “Refrigerating and Air-conditioning Appliances and Machinery, all sorts, and parts thereof” and under which domestic refrigerators are classifiable was introduced in 1961 Budget. On the other hand, goods like, cooking ranges, washing machines, mixers and grinders, and toasters came under the excise net w. e. f. 1-3-1969 with the introduction of Item No. 33C in the Central Excise Tariff Schedule.

(c) The rate of excise duty applicable to a particular product is decided keeping in view, *inter-alia*, the nature of the product, the class of consumers, the nature of use, etc. The considerations for imposition of comparatively lower rates of excise duty on television sets, which constitute an important medium of mass communication, do not apply in the case of refrigerators.

Export Subsidy/Incentive on Export of Frozen Pomfret Fish

4470. SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether export subsidy/incentive is granted on export of frozen pomfret fish but no such subsidy/incentive is granted on the export of fresh pomfret fish; and

(b) if so, steps being taken to remove the anomaly ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE: (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN): (a) Import replenishment at 5% and Cash Compensatory Support at 5% are given for export of frozen pomfret as incentives.