

P. A. SANGMA): (a) The Committees set up from time to time to suggest pressures for improving the system of recruitment and training of commercial representatives abroad have made certain recommendations, which also, include proposals to broaden the method of recruitment.

(b) Alexander Committee in its Report on Import-Export policies and Procedures (1978) had made certain observations in the adequacy of present system.

(c) The Estimates Committee of Parliament in 1980-81 recommended review of the existing system and strengthening of the Commercial Wings abroad by selecting qualified persons for a certain percentage of posts from sources other than the one at present.

(d) The system of commercial representation is under constant review and corrective steps are taken as and when necessary to strengthen and improve the arrangements.

#### **Setback to cheap cloth scheme**

2249. SHRI HARINATHA MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-items captioned "Set back to cheap cloth scheme" in the Economic Times dated 31st January, 1982;

(b) whether the controlled cloth scheme introduced about a decade ago for clothing the economically weaker sections of the society has failed and stocks worth about Rs. 20 crore have piled up at various State-owned distribution outlets following series consumer resistance;

(c) whether Government have instructed the Corporation to suspend the production of long cloth and to "go slow" on the production of other varieties of cloth;

(d) whether Government have declined to raise the subsidy on controlled cloth to even the earlier levels prevailing before July, 1981 or to reduce the consumer prices of different varieties of controlled cloth; and

(e) other steps taken to solve the problem of supplying cheap cloth to the weaker sections of the society?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is not correct to say that the controlled scheme has failed. The controlled cloth scheme has been revised from 1st July, 1981 envisaging changes in the consumer prices and subsidy rates. On receipt of reports about accumulation of stocks of controlled cloth in some States on account of higher prices, the matter has been discussed with the State Governments and certain suggestions have been made to them for disposal of stocks lying with the State level agencies.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) It is not possible to reduce the prices of controlled cloth at present having regard to the fixed subsidy rates and increase in cost of production.

(e) In addition to mill-made controlled cloth, 325 million metres of janata cloth from the handloom sector has been brought within the scope of the controlled cloth scheme.

#### **Development of Passenger Traffic Growth by Indian Airlines**

2250. SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take steps for the management development of the Indian Airlines to encourage passenger traffic growth, induction of more air-buses and boeing aircraft and improvement in production to gain a higher profit;