

taken by ITDC and the Hotel Corporation of India. The India Tourism Development Corporation has been endeavouring to serve all classes of tourists viz., affluent, middle, and low budget tourists. Hence out of 23 units in the present chain of Ashok Group of Hotels only 6 hotels provide 5-star facilities. ITDC has made an allocation of Rs. 530 lakhs in the Sixth Plan for setting up joint ventures in collaboration with State Governments/State Tourism Development Corporations. The basic objective of the scheme is to construct medium priced hotels at important centres so as to facilitate balanced growth of tourism development in all the regions. The ITDC is at present constructing Ashok Yatri Niwas in New Delhi at an estimated cost of Rs. 430 lakhs which will cater to budget tourists. This is a pilot project. Construction of such Yatri Niwas in other towns and cities in various States will be considered only after the operational results over the first 2-3 years of the Ashok Yatri Niwas project at New Delhi have been evaluated.

Export of Essential Commodities

8305. SHRI ATAL BIHARI
VAJPAYEE:

SHRI SURAJ BHAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity and value of each essential commodity exported in each of the last three years and also in the current year; and

(b) effect of these exports on domestic consumers and prices in each case?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—3966/82].

News-Item Captioned "Bureaucratic Strangle-Hold on the Armed Forces"

8306. SHRI ATAL BIHARI
VAJPAYEE:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) has Government's attention been drawn to an article by Lt. Gen. Z. C. Bakshi regarding bureaucratic stranglehold on the Armed Forces, published in the 'Statesman' on 22nd December, 1981;

(b) is it a fact that the apex body of higher defence organisation, the Defence Minister's Committee, has not met since 1947; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to rationalise the functioning of higher defence organisation with a view to reducing bureaucratic stranglehold as recommended by different Parliamentary Committees and the Administrative Reforms Committee?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The functions of this committee are being performed by the weekly meeting which the Defence Minister has with Service Chiefs and others concerned.

(c) There is no bureaucratic stranglehold on Defence organisation as alleged in the Question. There are no recommendations in this regard, pending for action.

Export Duty on Agricultural and Plantation Products

8307. SHRI K. MALLANNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the agricultural and plantation products which have shared attraction in export duty; and

(b) the rate of exports duty levied thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI

SAWAI SINGH SISODIA): (a) and (b) The names of agricultural and plantation commodities liable to export duty and the rates of duty applicable to them are indicated in the attached statement.

Statement

Heading No. in the Export Tariff	Brief description of article	Current effective rate of duty
1.	Coffee	Rs. 300 per quintal
5.	Tobacco, unmanufactured	75 paise per Kg or 20% <i>ad valorem</i> , whichever is lower.
16.	Raw cotton :—	
	1. Bengal Deshi	Rs. 2500 per tonne
	2. Raw cotton of the varieties known as :—	} Rs. 550 per tonne
	(a) Assam / Comilla—Cotton	
	(b) Yellow pickings and Zoda cotton (that is, cotton of third picking and of unspinnable quality).	
	(c) Pickings and sweepings of cotton of no practical use in the country.	
	3. Raw cotton having a staple length of 24.5 mm. and above	Nil
	4. All other varieties of raw cotton	Rs. 1000 per tonne.

NOTE : (i) Rates of export duty are revised from time to time having regard to the competitive position of Indian goods in foreign markets.

(ii) Articles such as raw wool, cotton waste, oil cakes and animal feed have been taken to be outside the scope of the term "agricultural commodity" for the purpose of this statement.

Officers of Defence Lands and Cantonments Service posted to Senior Class I Posts

8308. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many Class I Junior Scale Officers of the Defence Lands and Cantonments Service were posted to Senior Class I posts without being paid the scale attached to these posts particularly when posts were vacant and officers posted to these vacant higher posts were also eligible;

(b) whether Government have paid or have decided to pay the senior scale with retrospective effect for the period the above Officers have performed the higher duties;

(c) if not, the reasons thereof; and

(d) whether Government are aware that such denial of financial benefits has created avoidable demoralisation in these young officers of the service?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. P.
SINGH DEO): (a) Senior Scale posts are held both by officers already in the senior scale as well as officers in the junior scale