

83. K. S. Sawhney
 84. M. C. Joshi
 85. J. C. Mehndiratta
 86. V. V. S. Sastri
 87. H. S. Serna
 88. R. R. Gupta

Note: The above list excludes the names of persons who assisted the Conference.

Aid India Consortium meeting at Paris

272. SHRI TRIDIB CHAUDHURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of development assistance for 1982-83 pledged to India by the 25th meeting of World Bank sponsored Aid-India Consortium held in Paris on June 15, 1982;

(b) the share of the World Bank Group in this and the individual share of member countries of the Consortium; and

(c) what part of aid pledged is tied to specific projects?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) At the meeting of India Consortium held on June 14-15, 1982 the members of the Consortium indicated economic assistance of dollar 366 billion for the year 1982-83.

(b) As the pledges made at the Consortium meeting are subject to necessary approvals under respective laws and regulations of various donors, it is not possible to indicate individual shares at this stage. However, according to preliminary indications the World Bank has pledged economic assistance of US dollar 2.2 billion.

(c) The discussions at the meeting were of general nature and no specific projects were discussed.

Setting up of an Autonomous Authority for Developing Free Trade Zones

273. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up an autonomous authority to develop and operate free trade zones and assist 100 per cent export-oriented units;

(b) what are the recommendations of the committee set up for this purpose; and

(c) which are the places where these zones will be set up?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b). The Task Force under the Chairmanship of Shri P. L. Tandon, President, National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) appointed to examine the working of the Free Trade Zones, has submitted an interim report which contains a recommendation to this effect.

(c) The Government of India has not so far taken any decision to set up more Free Trade Zones in the country.

Controlled Cloth accumulated in States

274. SHRI P. K. KODIYAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that controlled cloth worth Rs. 85 crores produced by the National Textile Corporation is gathering dust in distribution centres in the States for want of takers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that one of the reasons for want of takers of the cloth is high prices fixed for controlled varieties of cloth in July last year;

(c) whether the National Consumers' Federation and State agencies have urged the Centre to reconsider the controlled cloth scheme in view of the lack of demand and huge accumulation of stocks; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The sudden increase in prices was one of the reasons for its reduced offtake.

(c) and (d). Several representations have been received from different sources urging Central Government to reduce the consumer prices of different varieties of controlled cloth and to restore the earlier distribution margin to the distributing agencies. It has not been found appropriate to revise consumer prices or to enhance the distribution margin. However, National Textile Corporation have offered discount ranging from 2-1/2 per cent to 7-1/2 per cent to National Co-operative Consumers' Federation for being passed on to the consumers.

Extension of Rural Credit by Commercial Banks

275. SHRI A. T. PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the target for covering villages by Commercial Banks for extending rural credit during 1980-81, 1981-82, 1982-83 and to what extent it has been achieved (till 30th June, 1982);

(b) are Government aware that although a particular village is given under the coverage of a specific commercial bank, in practice the bank employees refuse to extend credit to the villagers on the ground that it is located either in difficult area or at a longer distance which they do not desire to travel and the scheme remains as a paper-scheme; and

(c) what specific action Government propose to take to relieve such villages of these difficulties?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (c). No targets are fixed for banks to cover villages under the Village Adoption Scheme.

Reserve Bank of India has already clarified to commercial banks that the adoption of village by a bank must not exclude other banks from financing in that

area. Banks have also been advised not to reject applications for viable schemes received merely on the ground that they emanate from places beyond their normal command areas, if in their judgement such loans can be effectively serviced by them. Commission paid by NTC on Securing

Government Orders

276. SHRI ARJUN KUMAR NEHRU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government, both Central and State Units, while placing orders on the National Textile Corporation, have to operate through commission agents; and

(b) if so, the quantum of commission paid by NTC on securing Government orders during the past two years?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b). Some N.T.C. subsidiaries have appointed agents from time to time on commission basis for sale of their products through DGS&D and to other agencies. The rate of commission varies from 2 per cent to 3 per cent.

सोना नियन्त्रण अधिनियम

277. श्री नरसिंह मकवाना : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) सोना नियन्त्रण अधिनियम की उपलब्धि क्या है और क्या उससे सोने का व्यापार नियन्त्रण में आया है ;

(ख) 18 और 20 कैरेट सोने के आभूषणों को बताने की योजना को कार्यान्वित करने के रास्ते में क्या कठिनाइयाँ हैं ; और

(ग) क्या सोना नियन्त्रण अधिनियम की कार्यान्वित करने के लिए