

General Currency Area & Rupees Currency Area.

(b) Mica being a canalised item, all contracts for export of mica including export to Hard Currency Area negotiated in the name of Mica Trading Corporation of India Ltd., Patna.

(c) Does not arise.

Visit of FICCI Delegation to Foreign Countries

5235. SHRI G. NARASIMHA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a FICCI delegation recently visited some foreign countries to explore the possibility of third country ventures with the collaboration of foreign countries;

(b) whether the FICCI team has submitted any detailed report in this regard; and

(c) whether the ventures are going to be in the private sector or Government will also participate in it?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) (a) to (c) During the year 1982, three delegations had gone abroad under the auspices of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry. These delegations had visited (1) Egypt and Nigeria (2) Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and Dubai and (3) Sweden. According to the normally accepted practice the discussions of these delegations these countries covered three major aspects: (a) promotion of bilateral trade (b) scope for establishment of joint ventures in each other's country and (c) possibility of setting up of joint ventures in third countries. FICCI delegations normally identify the areas of co-operation between India and the countries visited and it is left to the companies both in the

private and public sectors to take the necessary initiative in arranging the tie-ups.

Penalty Claims against Defaulting Exporters

5236. SHRI SAMINUDDIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Apparels Export Promotion Council, New Delhi has penalty claims against exporters including Members of the Executive Committee for non-fulfilment of export obligations; and

(b) do Government propose an independent inquiry by and outside agency like CCI & E, to go into such defaults?

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

(b) Apparels Export Promotion Council has intimated that action has been initiated by the Council to invoke bank guarantees in all cases except appeal or court cases have been filed. Therefore, the need for any other inquiry does not arise.

Reduction of Prices of Controlled Cloth

5237. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of controlled cloth has been increased, if so, the percentage of increase;

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to this rise, huge stocks of controlled cloth are lying unsold at the primary and link society level, particularly in the State of Orissa; and

(c) whether Government of India have been requested to reduce the present prices; if so, what action has been taken?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) The prices of controlled cloth, after having been kept unchanged since April, 1974, have been increased with effect from 1-7-1981. The weighted average increase in the consumer price of mill-made controlled cloth is 88 per cent over the consumer prices prevailing in 1974.

(b) Increase in price has affected the sale of controlled cloth resulting in accumulation of stocks of such cloth with distributing agencies in certain States including the State of Orissa;

(c) Representations had been received from different sources for reducing the present prices of controlled cloth but it was not found possible to do so having regard to the fixed subsidy rates and increases in cost of production. However, National Textile Corporation have recently offered discounts, ranging from 2 1/2 per cent to 7 1/2 per cent to the National Co-operative Consumers' Federation for the benefit of the consumers.

Productivity linked-bonus to Employees engaged in maintenance and repairs

5238. SHRI B. K. NAIR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large segments of employees under his Ministry especially those in the establishments engaged in maintenance and repairs have not yet been covered by any productivity based Bonus formula;

(d) details of the ex-gratia payments made to them so far;

(c) when a formula is likely to be evolved; and

(d) whether the formula will be given retrospective effect from the date when payments were made to other similar categories?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) About 2.36 lakh employees under this Ministry are yet to be covered by the productivity linked bonus schemes.

(b) Pending finalisation of suitable formulae for payment of productivity linked bonus to those employees who have already been brought under the purview of the productivity linked bonus scheme, ad hoc payments to the extent of 15 days wages have been made in 1980 and 1981 for the years 1979-80 and 1980-81 respectively.

(c) This is under consideration.

(d) The formulae will be applicable from the years 1979-80 onwards as in other cases.

Violation of directive of Reserve Bank of India by Non-Nationalised Banks

5239. SHRI BHEEKHABHAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that non-nationalised banks sometimes violate the directives of the Reserve Bank of India in respect of payment for brokerage, Insurance premia and acceptance of short term deposits for Governmental or semi-Governmental agencies;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Lakshmi Commercial Bank Ltd. (a non-nationalised bank) acted contrary to the directive in September, 1977;

(c) if so, what action Government initiated against the bank;

(d) how many non-nationalised banks have violated the said directives and the amount of loss as a result thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (d). Some such violations by non-