

issued by the CCI&E to hear appeals against the decisions or orders of the Apparels Exports Promotion Councils which is an agency authorised by the CCI&E to allocate export quotas for garments.

(b) whether appeals are allowed against the decisions of the said Apparels Export Promotion Council for refusing to allocate export quotas; and

(c) under which provision or section of the Import and Export (Control) Act of 1947; the Textile Commissioner has been empowered to hear appeals as under Section 4M of the said Act, the power to hear appeals is limited to certain other Officers who would also enjoy powers of a Civil Court under Section 4.0(2) of the said Act?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) Yes, Sir, Public Notice No. 61-ETC(PN)/81 dated 10th August, 1981 contains a provision enabling an exporter to prefer an appeal against the levy of penalties by the Apparels Export Promotion Council for non-fulfilment of quotas allotted to the exporters.

(b) No, Sir. But an exporter can make a representation to the Textile Commissioner, who has been designated as the supervisory authority in matters relating to quota administration.

(c) Export of garments is allowed under Open General Licence No. 3 of Schedule III to Exports (Control) Order, 1977 on fulfilment of the conditions specified therein. One of conditions is that the Apparels Export Promotion Council will allot quotas in terms of Public Notice No. 61-ETC-(PN)/81 dated 18th August, 1981. This Public Notice, inter alia, contains an appeal provision as mentioned in reply to part (a) above.

ROBBERY IN STATE BANK OF INDIA AT AMRITSAR

3505. SHRI GHULAM RASOOL KOCHAK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in May, 1982 Rs. 6 lakhs were robbed, from the

Amritsar Branch of State Bank of India; and

(b) if so, whether any enquiry was conducted and the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) State Bank of India has reported that on 28th May 1982, some persons wearing masks entered the premises of its Tangra branch, Amritsar District and carried away a sum of Rs. 4,06,500/- of which Rs. 6,500/- belonged to the customers.

(b) The Branch Manager has already lodged a complaint with the police authorities, who are investigating the matter.

FREEDOM TO FOREIGN COMPANIES

3506. SHRI SUNIL MAITRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to allow more freedom to foreign companies operating in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the said proposal; and

(c) the reason for the same?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) There is no such proposal. The operation of foreign companies in the country is regulated by legislations such as FERA, Companies Act and I (D&R) Act and policy announcements such as the Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956, the Industrial Licensing Policy of 1973, and the Industrial Policy Statement of 1980.

IRREGULARITIES IN SPECIAL INTEGRAL EXAMINATION FOR TRAFFIC ASSISTANTS

3507. SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the press reports regarding the irregularities in the special internal examination for Traffic Assistants