

### Decline in Indian Exports to Afghanistan

917. SHRI RASABEHARI BEHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian exports to Afghanistan have declined by more than five per cent in the year 1980-81 in comparison to 1979-80; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. It is a fact that Indian exports to Afghanistan have declined from Rs. 20.28 crores in 1979-80 to Rs. 19.27 crores in 1980-81. This represents a decline of five per cent.

Trade between the two countries was reviewed recently during the visit of an Afghan Trade Delegation to India. The decline in Indian exports was brought to the notice of the Afghan side, with request that purchases from India be increased. In this regard, it has been decided to designate focal points in both the countries to facilitate two-way flow of trade information. It has also been decided that Banks of both sides should establish direct correspondent relationship/agency arrangement, to improve service to the traders of the two countries.

### Social Security Certificate Scheme

918. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:

SHRI B. D. SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the public response to the Social Security Certificate Scheme since its inception;

(b) if the scheme has failed to attract the anticipated public response, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to make it more attractive, especially for the rural masses?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) The public response to the Social Security Certificates Scheme which is meant for the weaker section of the society has been satisfactory.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Central and State Governments are taking necessary steps through the various publicity media to educate the rural masses regarding the benefits of the Scheme and the attractive features built into it for their benefit.

### Hotels on Beaches of Gujarat

919. SHRI BHERAVADAN K. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the great potential to develop tourism, Government have considered to establish some hotels, motels and other accommodative facilities through ITDC in Gujarat;

(b) whether in view of the fact that Asian lions exist only in Gir Sanctuary of Gujarat, Government are thinking to develop tourist centres in Gujarat;

(c) if so, the plans and programmes;

(d) whether Government propose to establish some hotels on the line of Kovalam Beach and other beaches of Tamil Nadu, Orissa and Goa on the beaches of Mandavi, Chorwad and Surat; and

(e) if not, the considerations and constraints for not doing so?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN): (a) to (e). Information is given in the statement attached.