

Several measures have been undertaken by the Government in the recent past with a view to reviving exports from the leather sector. These include (i) fixation of liberalised export quota for semi-finished leather during 1982-83, (ii) import of wet blue leather on duty free basis, (iii) inclusion of footwear in the list of products, which are eligible for special facilities on ground of 100% exports.

Embezzlement in Punjab National Bank branch in Delhi

2200. SHRI TRILOK CHANDRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a case of embezzlement of more than a lakh of rupees from a Punjab National Bank Branch in Delhi was detected sometime in November, 1982 ; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the result of the investigation made into the case and the action taken by Government in the matter ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER
IN THE MINISTRY OF FI-
NANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA
POOJARY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Officer-in-charge of the Extension Counter at Red Fort, Delhi of the Punjab National Bank had embezzled a sum of Rs. 1,52,042.50. The embezzlement was detected in November, 1982. The officer concerned has been placed under suspension with effect from 24-11-82. The Bank also immediately lodged a complaint with the police on 24-11-82 and the police investigation has not yet concluded. The police have since arrested the officer concerned.

Distilleries and Alcoholic Factories in Sikkim Exempted from Excise duty and Income Tax

2201. SHRI P.M. SUBBA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the distilleries and alcoholic factories in Sikkim are exempted from excise duty and income-tax ;

(b) how many distilleries and alcoholic factories are functioning in Sikkim and who are their owners ;

(c) if the answer to "a" above is "yes", what are the reasons for such exemption and the amount of loss in revenue incurred yearly thereby ;

(d) whether it is proposed to do away with the exemption from taxes enjoyed by distilleries and alcoholic factories in Sikkim ; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE
IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE
(SHRI PATTABHI RAMA RAO) :
(a) and (b). Income-tax Act, 1961 has not yet been extended to the State of Sikkim. The question of extending the direct tax laws to the State of Sikkim is being periodically reviewed in consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Duties of excise on alcoholic liquors are collected by respective states in terms of Entry 51, List II, Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. Production, manufacture, possession, transport, purchase etc. of intoxicating liquors also fall within the jurisdiction of respective State Governments in terms of Entry 8 of the said list. As such, the matter does not fall within the jurisdiction of the Central Government.

(c) to (e) Does not arise in view of (a) & (b) above.