

JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Government's attention has been drawn to an article entitled "An Unfeeling Bureaucracy" which appeared in the *Business World* of January 30-February 12, 1984.

The article deals with decision of the Life Insurance Corporation of India to repudiate death claim under a life insurance policy on the ground that the insured had deliberately suppressed material facts concerning his medical history. The article also reports proceedings relating to the writ petition filed by the claimant in the Bombay High Court, and the adverse observations made by the single Judge of the Court against the LIC, while allowing the writ petition.

The LIC makes every effort to settle all claims in accordance with the law. Only in a small minority of cases, it questions the claims when it has reason to believe that the policies have been secured by the insured with fraudulent intent.

It may be mentioned that in the instant case, the LIC appealed against the Order of the single Judge, to the Division Bench of the Bombay High Court. During the pendency of the appeal, it also settled the claim by way of compromise. The Division Bench thereupon allowed the LIC's appeal, with the observation that the adverse remarks of the single Judge was not justified and the same would stand expunged.

(b) A Bill, seeking to give effect to Government's decision to reorganise the life insurance industry into five independent corporations, was introduced in the last winter Session of Parliament and the same is under consideration by a Joint Committee of the two Houses.

Economic Co-operation between India, Egypt and Yugoslavia

6847. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India, Egypt and Yugoslavia—three founding members of the non-aligned movement, have recently renewed their tri-partite agreement on economic co-operation at Cairo ; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) : (a) and (b) A new Protocol to the Tripartite Agreement was signed in Cairo on 10th March, 1984. The Protocol extends the validity of the Common List under the Agreement till 31st March, 1988. The Common List hitherto covered 134 products on which the three countries were granting tariff preferences to each other. The Protocol has now added 14 more items to the Common List.

Decline in the Export of Carpets

6848. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of carpets exported during the years 1981-82, 1982-83 and 1983-84 ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the export of carpets is declining year after year, if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) the steps taken to save this industry in increasing the carpet export during the year 1984-85 ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) The data on export of carpets is not maintained numberwise.

(b) The export of carpets including rugs, druggets and namdahs has been rising continuously from 1971-72 to 1981-82 and thereafter, there has been a slight decline mainly due to economic recession in West Europe and North America.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to promote export of carpets are listed in the statement attached.

12% of fob value has been allowed with effect from 14.7.83.

Statement

1. Two sales-cum-study teams including representatives from the carpet industry to USA, Canada and gulf countries were sponsored in 1982 to study the market potential and to transact on the spot business.
2. An exhibition of Indian carpets was organised at Jeddah in March-April, 1983.
3. An Indian trade exhibition was organised by Trade Fair Authority of India at Caracas (Venezuela) in March, 1983. Handicrafts including carpets were displayed there, which resulted in exposure of handicrafts and carpets before buyers of Venezuela and other ANDEAN Group of countries.
4. A market orientation tour for select handicrafts of J & K including carpets was undertaken by the Indian Institute for Foreign Trade in association with the Common-Wealth Secretariat in UK, Belgium, Netherlands, West Germany and France in 1982.
5. A sales-cum-study team including a representative from the carpet industry visited Athens, Zurich, Nepales, Barcelona and Amsterdam in December, 1983.
6. Cash Compensatory Support for woollen carpets at the rate of 7% to 17% depending upon the fob value of carpets per square metre.
7. Cash Compensatory Support for silk carpets at the rate of

8. Import of duty free Carpet Grade Wool is being allowed on export of carpets for improving the quality of Indian carpets.

9. A separate Carpet Export Promotion Council has been set up to give an undivided attention to the exports of carpets.

Loans under 20-Point Programme in Gujarat

6849. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the deposits secured and credits advanced, state-wise by the nationalised banks during the years 1981, 1982 and 1983;

(b) the credits advanced, district-wise by the nationalised banks in Gujarat during the above period;

(c) the number of persons in rural areas were benefited ; and

(d) what is the scheme chalked out for the year 1984 to advance loans to the weaker section of the society particularly in Adivasi areas of the country and particularly in Gujarat State to implement 20-point Programme ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) Available data on State-wise deposits and advances of all Scheduled Commercial Banks as at the end of December 1981, December 1982 and March 1983 are set out in the Statement I.

(b) District-wise data on deposits and advances are available for all