

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c) The target set for export of silk during 1983-84 is Rs. 85 crores. This target has already been achieved during the 10 months period (April '83-Jan '84) with total export earnings of Rs. 86.08 crores (provisional), thus exceeding the target by 1.3%.

Ban on Smoking in Aeroplanes of I.A.

21. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether smoking in aeroplanes of the Indian Airlines has been found hygienic even for those passengers who do not smoke; if so, the details thereabout;

(b) whether it is proposed to ban smoking totally in aeroplanes except in toilets in exceptional circumstances; and

(c) if so, from when it is going to be prohibited; and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN) : (a) Passengers are allotted seats in the Indian Airlines' flights in the non-smoking zone on request. The air circulation in the present-day aircraft has been so designed that unhygienic conditions do not develop as a result of smoking.

(b) No, Sir. Smoking, however, in toilets is banned as it is a safety hazard.

(c) In view of (a) and (b) does not arise.

Officers of Ministry of Finance who have Worked with World Bank or UNDP

22. SHRI SUSHIL BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the percentage of senior officials in his Ministry who have worked with the World Bank or the UN Development Programme with the privilege of tax free incomes during their stay and tax free pensions for stay of five years ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as early as possible.

Promotions of Cadred Officials in Office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts)

23. CHAUHDARY MULTAN SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Cadred officials have been given promotions in the office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) against rules;

(b) the action being taken to regularly fill up such posts and the reasons for the delay; and

(c) the time by which regular arrangements will be made in such cases ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) Yes, Sir. There is one such case.

(b) Efforts were made twice to fill up the post on regular basis. but no suitable candidate was available.

(c) The recruitment rules for the post are under review and as soon as the same are finalised, regular arrangements will be made to fill up the post.

Wholesale and Consumer Prices of Public Sector Products

24. SHRI SATYANARAYAN JAITYA Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the prevailing prices (wholesale and consumer) and increase in them of public sector products like coal, steel, petroleum products, fertilizers, paper, cement and non-ferrous metals, along with the dates of increase during the periods :—

(i) January 1977—December 1979

(ii) January 1980—December 1983

(b) the amount of revenue raised at each time by the increase;