

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (GRIH MANTRALAYA MEN RAJYA MANTRI) (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) Government have seen the news-item in the *Hindustan Times*.

(b) Facts are being ascertained from the State Government.

Issue of Commemorative Stamp in Memory of Poet Pavandhan Bharathi Dasan

361. SHRI S. A. MURUGANANTHAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS (SANCHAR MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Pondicherry Administration has requested the Centre to bring out a postal stamp in memory of the Great Tamil Poet Pavandhan Bharathi Dasan ; and

(b) if so, action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SANCHAR MANTRI) (SHRI H. N. BAIHUGUNA) : (a) Yes.

(b) The proposal for the issue of a stamp during 1971 in honour of Thiru Bharathidasan was examined by the Philatelic Advisory Committee attached to the P and T Deptt. but the Committee did not recommend acceptance of the proposal.

Refund of T. A. claimed by employees of Coffee Board in Nilgiri (Tamil Nadu)

362. SHRI B. N. REDDY : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE (VIDESH VYAPAR MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether employees working in the Research Department of the Coffee Board in Nilgiris, (Tamil Nadu) had been asked by the Coffee Board to repay the T. A. claimed by them during the last eight years ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether the T. A. was claimed by the employees in accordance with the Circular No. F. 8 (21) F. IV/B/62 dated the 31st December, 1962 from the Ministry of Commerce and Industries ; and

(d) if so, whether Government will consider to withdraw the order for repayment ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE

(VIDESH VYAPAR MANTRALAYA MEN UP-MANTRI) (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) to (c). The employees of the Research Department of the Coffee Board had drawn T. A. at rates higher than admissible under the Ministry of Finance O. M., dated the 31st December, 1962. The Board had decided to recover the excess payments in easy instalments from the concerned employees.

(d) The matter is under consideration.

Study Undertaken of Handloom Industry of Panipat

364. SHRI S. P. BHATTACHARYYA : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE (VIDESH VYAPAR MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was any special study of the Handloom industry of Panipat by the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (VIDESH VYAPAR MANTRALAYA MEN UP-MANTRI) (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) Yes, Sir. The IIFT conducted in August 1970 a special study on the handloom industry of Panipat as a part of the export potential survey of the Haryana State.

(b) The Survey which covered leading manufacturers/exporters of Panipat handlooms has *inter alia* investigated various problems of the industry relating to raw material requirements, designing, dyeing and finishing facilities, marketing arrangements etc. The survey has envisaged that the exports of handloom goods from Panipat can be increased from the present estimated level of Rs. 20 lakhs to Rs. 60 lakhs by 1971-72 provided effective steps aimed at orienting industry to overseas export requirements are under taken. The major recommendations thrown up by the Survey include : (a) product modification necessary for expanded exports ; (b) establishment of woollen finishing plant at Panipat ; and (c) organisation of raw material depot at Panipat for ensuring required supply of raw material to the industry.

(c) The report submitted by IIFT is under the consideration of Haryana Government.