

(8) Officers of the rank of Deputy Secretary have been nominated as Liaison Officers in all Ministries/ Departments to look after the work relating to representation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

People of Assamese Origin on Pay-Role on P. & T. Department, Assam

433. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS (SANCHAR MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons employed in Assam in different classes of posts by the Posts and Telegraphs Department during the years 1969 and 1970 ;

(b) out of the aforesaid posts, how many were filled up by people either of whose parents was a permanent resident in the State of Assam including Meghalaya ; and

(c) out of the aforesaid posts, how many were filled up by persons who prosecuted or completed their studies in any educational institution in the State of Assam including Meghalaya ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SANCHAR MANTRI) (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA). (a) to (c). The information that is asked for is not available. It will take a lot of time to collect the information as the employees who were recruited are in different units disposed throughout the State. The time taken in collecting the information will not be commensurate with the results. If the object of the question is to stress the need for recruitment of more local people in P & T services in Assam (including Meghalaya), it may be stated that the whole question relating to recruitment and policy is under consideration.

Improvement in India's Exports

434. SHRI BISHWANATH ROY :
SHRI V. N. P. SINGH :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE (VIDESH VYAPAR MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether India had some improvement in exports during the year 1970-71 in comparison with the preceding year ; and

(b) the commodities in which our export has been less and the steps taken to increase the same ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (VIDESH VYAPAR MANTRALAYA MEN UP-MANTRI) (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) :

(a) Yes, Sir. India's exports including re-exports improved to Rs. 1530.6 crores in 1970-71 as compared to Rs. 1413.3 crores during 1969-70 thus showing a growth rate of 8.3 per cent against 4.1 per cent achieved during 1969-70 and exceeding the Fourth Plan target of 7 per cent in 1970-71.

(b) Commodity and country-wise details for the whole year are not yet available.

Investigation into Affairs of Pratappgarh Tea Estate Agartala (Tripura)

435. SHRI DASHRATHA DEB : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE (VIDESH VYAPAR MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation has investigated into the affairs of the Pratappgarh Tea Estate Agartala, Tripura against which some serious charges of corruption have been openly voiced in local press ; and

(b) if so, the findings of such investigation ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (VIDESH VYAPAR MANTRALAYA MEN UP-MANTRI) (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Development of Tripura

436. SHRI DASARATHA DEB : Will the Minister of PLANNING (YOJANA MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria for demarcating any Territory as ' backward area ' ;

(b) whether Tripura can be considered as a backward area ; and

(c) if so, what additional assistance Government propose to grant for the development of Tripura ?