

(b) if so, the number of Industries which are likely to be set up during the next two years; and

(c) the time by which these industries will be set up?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) to (c). The Government of Mauritius have shown interest in the setting up of industrial joint ventures in Mauritius by the Indian industrialists. So far, the Government of India have approved nine proposals for setting up industrial joint ventures in Mauritius, out of which four have already gone into production, and for those which are under implementation, no time schedule has been stipulated.

Complaints against Inspectors of Central Excise, Delhi

3668. SHRI SHASHI BHUSHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received against the Inspectors of the Central Excise Collectorate, Delhi, for not discharging their duties during the year 1972;

(b) the nature of complaints, the action taken on such complaints and the officers involved;

(c) when such complaints were made and the stage at which the investigations stands at present; and

(d) the time by which the enquiry is likely to be completed and action taken against the officers involved and the parties concerned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) to (d). Complaints were received on different dates in 1972 against 46 Inspectors of Central Excise in the Delhi Collectorate alleging acceptance of illegal gratifica-

tion or harassment to traders etc. On investigation, 30 complaints were found to be baseless and were filed. In one case, a chargesheet has since been issued to the Inspector concerned. In another case the investigation report is under consideration of the competent officer. In the remaining 14 cases, investigations are still in progress and these cases are likely to be completed by the end of April, 1973.

"Smuggling of Mica to foreign countries"

3669. SHRI SHASHI BHUSHAN:
SHRI HUKAM CHAND
KACHWAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that high quality mica is being smuggled to foreign countries on large scale by businessmen in connivance with the border personnel through road and waterways which is causing a loss of foreign exchange to the tune of Rs. 2.5 crores annually; and

(b) if so, the remedial measures adopted by Government to check the smuggling of mica outside the country and to detect the smugglers who manage to cross the border without detection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) The Government have no reliable information indicating that high quality mica is being smuggled to foreign countries on large scale in connivance with the border personnel. However, in view of some seizures of Mica in the past viz. Rs. 2,93,000 in 1969; Rs. 68,870 in 1970 and Rs. 30,700 in 1972, the possibility of some mica being smuggled across the Indo-Nepal border, cannot be ruled out.

(b) The following steps have been taken by the Government to check

smuggling of goods, including Mica, across the Indo-Nepal border:—

- (i) Required staff has been posted at Kodarma and Giridih, where most of mica is produced and traded, to collect and transmit intelligence about smuggling of mica from these areas to Nepal.
- (ii) Mobile preventive parties have been set up on the Indo-Nepal border to check smuggling of goods, including mica, from India to Nepal and vice-versa.
- (iii) Jeeps have been provided to make the border staff more mobile and effective.
- (iv) The man-power in the Preventive parties has been increased.
- (v) Close liaison is being maintained with the State authorities on the Indo-Nepal border to check smuggling of goods across the border.
- (vi) Co-operation of the H.M.G. of Nepal has also been sought repeatedly in this connection. The Nepal Government have informed that they have stopped issuing fresh licences for the export of mica from Nepal since the last one and a half years. They have also banned the export of mica from Nepal by gift parcels.
- (vii) A post of Collector of Customs has been created at Patna for unified control of the Customs formations along the Indo-Nepal border.

Investigations into the mystery of Hazratganj Branch of State Bank of India, Lucknow

3670. SHRI SHASHI BHUSHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether investigations by the Inspector of the Central Office of the

State Bank of India, Bombay upto Rs. 16 crore mystery of Hazratganj Branch (Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh) have since been completed and the report submitted to Government; and

(b) if so, the main points of the report and the action taken or proposed to be taken against the defaulting officers of the bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) There is no mystery of Rs. 16 crores in the State Bank Branch at Hazratganj as such. The facts are that Currency and Bank Notes amounting to Rs. 73.71 lakhs in denominations of Rs. 10 and below were damaged in September, 1971 because of unprecedented floods in the Gomti river at Lucknow. The notes in question were held as a part of a total stock of soiled notes awaiting examination amounting to Rs. 15.77 crores as on 31st October 1972. Between November 1972 and January, 1973, a team of officials from the Reserve Bank of India, State Bank of India and a Currency Expert from the Currency Note Press, Nasik visited the Hazratganj Branch of the State Bank of India, Lucknow and inspected flood-affected currency notes. Reports have been received from the Reserve Bank of India, with directions for follow up actions on the flood-affected notes.

(b) Action to get these notes examined has since been taken. The strength of the Cashiers for the examination of soiled notes has been augmented at the State Bank of India, Lucknow and they are now examining all the notes, including the flood-affected and those not affected by flood which have remained unexamined so far.

Of the flood-damaged notes worth Rs. 73.71 lakhs, Rs. 38.09 lakhs have been either salvaged or examined by the Currency Expert of Nasik, while