

(a) whether Lead Bank Scheme has been implemented in any District and if so, the names thereof; and

(c) the time by which this scheme will be made applicable to other Districts?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN): (a) to (c). The lead bank scheme is being implemented in all the districts of the country except in the metropolitan cities and the Union Territories of Chandigarh, Delhi, Goa, Daman and Diu. In all, it covers 328 districts. So far, survey reports have been prepared in respect of 302 districts. These reports contain broad features of the district economy and also seek to identify the growth centres with potential for opening of bank offices. Some of the reports also focus attention on the credit gaps and the type of schemes that could be taken up for implementation in the districts

As part of the scheme, district level consultative committees are set up by the lead banks concerned. In these committees, the bank representatives in the district as well as the concerned district officials meet together to discuss the ways and means for increasing the banking facilities in the districts. Such consultative committees have already been set up in over 180 districts. Banks are expediting the preparation of the reports as well as setting up of the district level consultative committees wherever this has not been done already.

Decision taken in the meeting of Chairman and Managing Directors of Public Sector Banks

675 **SHRI C JANARDHANAN:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of the Chairman and Managing Directors of Public sector banks was held in Delhi in January, 1973;

(b) if so, the subjects discussed and the decisions taken therein; and

(c) the steps being taken to implement the decision?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN): (a) and (b). A meeting of Chairman and Managing Directors of public sector banks was held under the Chairmanship of the Union Finance Minister on 17th and 18th January, 1973. This meeting was one of the periodical meetings, Finance Minister usually holds with the Chief Executives of the banks. The subjects discussed and the decisions taken during the meeting are given in the statement laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library See No LT-4249/73].

(c) The decisions have been sent to the banks and the Reserve Bank of India for necessary follow-up action.

India's Trade with Europe and U.K. after U.K.'s entry into E.E.C.

676. **SHRI C JANARDHANAN:**
SHRI R. S PANDEY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) how far India's trade interests with West Europe and Trade with U.K have been affected by Britain's entry into the E.E.C.; and

(b) what are the steps so far taken to safeguard India's trade interests in this context?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) and (b). Our exports in many items are likely to be affected adversely following the British entry into the European Economic Community unless adequate safeguards measures are found in their respect through negotiations.

As there are many impoderables, it is not possible to assess precisely the impact of U.K.'s entry into EEC on our exports.

The question of providing adequate safeguard measures for our exports that are likely to be affected following British accession to the EEC is being pursued both with the UK as well as the other members of the European Economic Community. During the visit of Mr. Geoffrey Rippon, Minister in the UK Cabinet to Delhi in September, 1972, Shri L. N. Mishra, former Minister of Foreign Trade, had detailed discussions with him on the modalities of safeguard arrangements for our exports in the context of the enlargement of the Community. Shri Mishra visited London in January 1973 at the invitation of the British Government to carry forward the discussions held in Delhi. A copy of the Joint Communiqué issued following Shri Mishra's discussions is laid on the Table of the House. *Placed in Library. See No. LT-4250/73.*

Balance of Trade between India and the EEC

677 SHRI C. JANARDHANAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether there is a chronic and rising adverse balance of trade between India and the EEC?

(b) what was the position of our trade balance with EEC in 1970-71 and 1971-72, and

(c) the steps taken to help ourselves out of this unfavourable trade balance with EEC?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) and (b) We have a chronic adverse balance of trade with the European Economic Community (Benelux countries, Federal Republic of Germany, France and Italy). The adverse balance amounted to (—) 89.79 crores and (—) 124.89 crores during 1970-71 and 1971-72 respectively.

(c) The steps taken include.

(i) efforts with the Community for the removal/reduction of tariff and non-tariff barriers in respect of important items of our exports.

(ii) participation in the trade fairs and exhibitions in the Community member countries to promote more exports.

(iii) launching of Commercial Development Programmes with individual member States.

(iv) Exchange of trade delegations.

(v) Periodic consultations for promoting trade and commercial relations.

(vi) measures for taking full advantage of the Generalised Scheme of Preferences of the Community.

Enquiry into the death of Air India Loader near a Hangar at Delhi Airport on 16-1-1973

678 SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state

(a) whether any enquiry was held into the death of 30-year old Air India Loader who was found dead with head injuries near a Hangar at Delhi Airport on the 16th January, 1973, and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH): (a) and (b) The police are investigating the case and their report is awaited. The unfortunate accident is also being enquired into departmentally by Air-India.

Efforts to increase foreign exchange earnings through Tourist Trade

679 SHRI BAKSI NAYAK: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state

(a) the total earning through tourist trade during the last two years