

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAHA SUSHILA ROHATGI):** (a) and (b). The LIC reduced premium rates under 8 of its without-profit plans of assurances in 1970 and under 6 more without-profit plans in 1971, as actuarial considerations justified such reduction. In 1972 the rates applicable to annuity plans were liberalised and early this year pure endowment premium rates applicable to new group scheme business were revised.

As regards with-profit plans, though the favourable mortality experience by itself would have warranted a reduction in the premium rates, the continuous increase in the expenses of management has rendered the future outlook uncertain. In the circumstances the LIC decided to defer consideration of any revision of premium rates under these plans till such time as the expenses had stabilised, particularly since equity to the with-profit policyholders can be ensured through the mechanism of bonus distribution.

#### Trade Relations with Latin American Countries

**4425. SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) with how many Latin American countries India has trade relations at present;

(b) what is the volume of trade with each of these countries at present; and

(c) whether any plan has been drawn up to expand trade with Latin American countries and if so, the salient features thereof?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE):** (a) India maintains trade relations with every country in the Latin American Region.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT 4972/73.]

(c) Efforts to expand trade with this region is a continuous process, and the major areas of emphasis in this regard are conclusion of trade agreements, increase of our presence in the area by way of establishment of local offices, agents, publicity, exchange of delegations etc.

#### Problems in Export of Sports Goods due to their High Prices

**4426. SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether high prices of India's sports goods are creating problems for export;

(b) whether Government have made any survey to this effect; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE):** (a) to (c). Exporters of leather-based sports goods are experiencing some difficulty on account of rise in the prices of leather required by them. Attempts are being made to solve this problem by making arrangements for supply of adequate quantities of leather at fair price.

#### Loan from Holland

**4427. SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU:**  
**SHRI ISHWAR CHAUDHRY:**

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Holland has offered a soft loan amounting to Rs. 18.6 crore to India;

(b) if so, what are the conditions attached to the loan; and

(c) whether India has accepted the offer?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI**