

Show Rooms for Indian Handicrafts in Foreign Countries

5492. SHRI PRABODH CHANDRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have opened any Show Rooms in foreign countries for displaying Indian handicrafts;

(b) if so, which are the countries in which such show rooms have been opened; and

(c) how far they have succeeded in popularising Indian handicrafts and what is the investment on each show room?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) and (b): Government has not opened any show room exclusively for displaying Indian handicrafts. Indian handicrafts are, however, on display in some of the showcases in various Indian Missions abroad as part of our Trade Representatives establishments. Besides, the 'Sona' Shops run by the Handicrafts and Handlooms Export Corporation in New York, Boston, Paris, Nairobi and Tokyo also function as show-windows of Indian handicrafts in these markets.

(c) As the display of handicrafts has not been organised separately, no investment has been made exclusively for display of Indian handicrafts. Exports of Indian handicrafts have however increased as in the last three years as under:—

Year	(Crores of Rs.)
1969-70	83.3
1970-71	80.9
1971-72	90.5

Imported Rags lying unprotected at Bombay

5493. SHRI PRABODH CHANDRA: SHRI E. V. VIKHE PATIL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether thousands of bales of imported "rags" are lying unprotected at Bombay;

(b) if so, the reasons for not releasing; and

(c) its impact on the workers in hosiery industries in Lundhiana?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) and (b). 36,183 bales were awaiting clearance at Bombay docks on 12th February, 1973. These bales are under the custody of the Customs pending departmental inspection and clearance;

(c) The impact has been adverse.

Export of Cashew Kernels

5494. SHRI RAJDEO SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India earned Rs. 43.60 crores through the export of cashew kernels during the first eight months in 1972;

(b) which are the countries to which these cashew kernels were exported; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to increase these exports?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) Exports of cashew kernels amounted to Rs. 43.70 crores during the period January—August, 1972.

(b) These exports were made to 47 countries; the major buyers being USA, USSR, Canada, UK, Japan, GDR, Australia and Netherlands.

(c) Government are taking various measures to increase indigenous production of cashewnuts as also directing Cashew Corporation of India to arrange for the maximum possible imports of raw cashewnuts for increasing the exports of cashew kernels. Cashew Export Promotion

Council takes steps like sponsoring of Delegations abroad, participation in Fairs/Exhibitions abroad; issue of publications and advertisements etc. to promote exports of cashew kernels.

Business of Life Insurance Corporation

5495. SHRI RAJDEO SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corporation in August, 1972 had a total of new business of Rs. 127.01 crore involving 1.040 lakh policies including foreign business to the tune of Rs. 75 lakh;

(b) whether in the context of Rs. 455.18 crores business during the first five months of financial (current) year, the business of August was the highest and if so, the reasons for the highest business; and

(c) whether similar efforts like August 1972 are proposed to be always be pursued; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI-MATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The new business in August 1972 was the highest for a month in the first five months of the current financial year. This is more or less in accordance with the normal trend as the following figures for the months of April to August, in the years 1971 and 1972 would show:--

(In crores of rupees).

Month	New business	
	1972-73	1971-72
April	25.95	30.27
May	80.98	53.47
June	96.68	72.17
July	124.56	111.99
August	127.01	107.25

The L.I.C. makes constant efforts to keep the flow of new business high.

Complaints received against General Manager and other officers of State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur

5496. SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Governor of Reserve Bank of India and the Manager, Reserve Bank of India, New Delhi have received complaints against the Senior officers of State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur, regarding corruption, misconduct and irregularities; and

(b) if so, the action taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI-MATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b). The Reserve Bank of India have reported that they have received some complaints against the officers of the State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur and that the allegations were looked into by their Inspecting Officer and also by the Inspecting Officer of the State Bank of India. The Reserve Bank of India have further reported that the irregularities referred to in the complaints are being followed up by the State Bank of India for suitable action wherever necessary.

Expansion of Patna, Ranchi, Muzaffarpur and Jamshedpur Airports

5497. SHRI R. P. YADAV: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined or propose to examine the possibility of further expansion and improvements of Patna, Ranchi, Muzaffarpur and Jamshedpur Airports so that bigger planes could land there during day and night; and

(b) if so, the result of examination and the stage at which the proposal stands?