

serve Bank of India have been urging the public sector banks to step up their advances to the priority sectors including agriculture. Finance Minister himself has taken several meetings with Chief Executives of public sector banks on this and detailed guidelines have been issued by the Reserve Bank of India. The progress of the lending of the public sector banks in the agricultural sector is kept constantly under review.

(b) Data, in the manner asked for, are not maintained by the banks. Outstandings of direct agricultural advances to farmers by public sector banks stood at Rs. 197.40 crores at the end of June, 1971 and at Rs 231.50 crores at the end of June, 1972.

Annual growth rate of Tourist Trade

2907. SHRI RAJDEO SINGH Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether 3.43 lakh foreign tourists visited India in 1972 registering a raise of 14 per cent over the preceding year there by earning foreign exchange through the tourist trade;

(b) if so, whether Government expect to maintain this annual growth rate of 14 per cent in this trade; and

(c) whether this annual growth rate of tourist trade is rising in proportion to the growing expenses of trade to provide accommodation and travelling facilities and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir.

Export of Light-Weight Sports Cycles to Canada and other Countries

2908. SHRI RAJDEO SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Project and Equipment Corporation has secured a deal with the Canadian administration for

the export of 3,000 light-weight sports cycles valued at Rs. 8 lakh;

(b) whether there are other countries also which import our light-weight sports cycles; and

(c) if so, which are those countries?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). U.S.A. has shown some interest in Indian light-weight sports cycles.

Position of Indian Goods under the relaxed Import Control Laws of Kenya

2909. SHRI RAJDEO SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kenya has relaxed controls imposed last January and brought in a large number of foreign goods which can now be imported under open general licence;

(b) whether the fresh Kenyan import laws in any way favour India; and

(c) if so, whether Government have availed of this opportunity to the fullest extent?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) and (b). No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Reduction of duty on exports of Jute and Coir Goods to E.E.C.

2910. SHRI RAJDEO SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian jute and coir goods will get duty reduction by 40 per cent between July, 1973 and January, 1974 in the European Economic Community and there would be practically no quota restrictions on these imports; and

(b) if so, whether our trade is utilising these facilities?