

(b) and (c). In addition to bilateral consultations held, the Sub-group of Tea Exporters which met in the F.A.O. meeting in June, 1974 agreed to examine in depth a multi-dimensional approach including a minimum export price arrangement, the co-ordination and regulation of marketing, global promotion, the strengthening of auctions in producing countries and provisions for a market intelligence service. However, at a meeting of the Seven nation Working Party in Rome in April 1975, no unanimity could be reached on these points without further studies felt necessary.

#### Unauthorised Powerlooms

9423 SHRI DHAMANKAR:

SHRI VASANT SATHE.

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of unauthorised powerlooms in the country, State-wise;

(b) the steps taken to check the growth of unauthorised powerlooms and to regularise the detected ones;

(c) Government's policy in regard to this problem; and

(d) whether any special measures are proposed to tackle the problem effectively?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):  
(a) to (d). No reliable estimate of unauthorised powerlooms in the country is available.

2. Government's policy is against the growth of unauthorised powerlooms, in spite of which it is found that such unauthorised powerlooms do come up. After taking all factors into consideration, Government had decided in 1966 to regularise all unauthorised powerlooms which existed on or before 28th February, 1966, by

issue of regular permits by the Textile Commissioner, Bombay. Government have decided not to regularise any other unauthorised powerlooms, and have taken the following steps to discourage growth of such looms:—

(i) Excise levy on the powerloom sector during the current year has been revised upward to reduce to some extent the large difference between the rates applicable to the powerloom sector *vis-a-vis* the mill sector.

(ii) A penal compounded levy of Rs 400 per annum per powerloom has also been imposed on unauthorised powerlooms; and

(iii) The Central Excise Authorities have been given instructions not to issue any L-4 licence to a powerloom which does not have a valid permit from the Textile Commissioner.

#### Entry of Monopoly Houses in Marine Products Export Industry

9424. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Monopoly Houses which have been allowed entry in the marine products export industry by the MRTPC Commission on the specific understanding that they will process only their own catch of fish, are hiring processing facilities, buying raw materials and competing with small scale operators in this country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what actions Government have taken against these Monopoly Houses who have violated these directions of the MRTPC Commission thereby forcing small scale operators out of the field?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):** (a) and (b). Government are enquiring into the allegations regarding infringement of the terms of the industrial license granted to large industrial houses for setting up processing establishments in the marine products industries and to assess the extent to which the establishment of these processing units has affected the interests of the small processors.

**Report of Tobacco Excise Tariff Experts Committee**

9425. **SHRI S. A. MURUGANANTHAM** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Tobacco Excise Tariff Experts Committee set up by Government has submitted its report;
- (b) if so, the salient features thereof; and
- (c) when do the Central Board of Excise propose to implement the recommendations of the Committee?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE):** (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The Report was submitted to Government only on the 1st May, 1975 and its study is yet to be taken up.

**Ceiling on possession of Gold**

9426. **SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have decided to lower the ceiling on possession of gold by an individual or a family; and
- (b) if so, the salient features thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE):**

(a) and (b). As per the existing provisions of the Gold Control Act private possession of primary gold is completely banned. There is no ceiling on possession of articles and ornaments of gold but when the possession of articles exceeds 50 grams or ornaments exceeds 4000 grains per family they have to be declared. Government have not taken any decision to lower these limits.

**Employment Conditions for Air Hostesses in Indian Airlines and Air India**

9427. **PROF MADHU DANDAVATE:** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state

- (a) whether the air hostesses in Indian Airlines and Air India are required to give an undertaking that if they marry, they will resign from their jobs;
- (b) whether it is true that such restriction is not imposed in a number of airlines in foreign countries; and
- (c) whether in the International Women's Year this discrimination against women will be ended?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH):** (a) According to the service conditions, an air hostess shall retire from the service of Air-India/Indian Airlines on her attaining the age of 30 years or when she gets married, whichever is earlier. The Management can, however, retain an unmarried air hostess in service upto the age of 40 years.

(b) Certain airlines in foreign countries are understood to have changed their procedures in this regard and permit air hostesses to marry.

(c) There is no discrimination as such and the question does not arise.