

(b) if so, whether this was made clear by him in reply to communication from the minister of Parliamentary Affairs;

(c) whether cotton growers had pointed out to him the consternation caused among the producers about the cotton import policy of Government;

(d) whether his Ministry are considering or evolving a policy to enable the Cotton Corporation of India to enter the market in a more meaningful way to relieve any hardships of the growers; and

(e) if so, whether any final decision has been taken?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b). Depending on the gap between supply and demand some import of cotton may be necessary. However, imports will be restricted to medium staple cotton of which the availability is less than demand.

(c) Yes, Sir. But in view of the reply to parts (a) and (b) of the Question, no adverse effect on producers is anticipated.

(d) and (e). Cotton Corporation of India has been granted a credit limit of Rs. 10 crores. We have requested the Ministry of Finance to increase this limit. The Cotton Corporation of India has recently started making some purchases.

Decline in Food Procurement Credit Expansion during Current Busy Season

1766. SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether food procurement credit expansion declined during the current busy season as compared to the last season; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI-MATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) During the current busy season, up to 31st January, 1975, the increase in public food procurement credit was Rs. 109 crores as compared to Rs. 134 crores during the corresponding period of the 1973-74 busy season. In absolute terms, the figures are Rs. 363 crores for the current busy season as compared to Rs. 389 crores over the same period in the last busy season.

(b) The lower expansion in credit for food procurement in the current season so far has been due to lower level of overall food procurement operations as compared to the last year's busy season.

Boosting of Exports of Rajasthan State

1768. DR. H. P. SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to a recent survey conducted by the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, on behalf of the Rajasthan Small Industries Corporation, Rajasthan's contribution to the All India export trade was only a meagre one per cent of the country's total exports for 1973-74;

(b) if so, the figures of export earnings for Rajasthan and the country as a whole during 1971-72, 1972-73 and 1973-74;

(c) whether any programme/plan has been drawn out by Rajasthan Government for boosting their export earnings during the Fifth Five Year Plan, if so, the main features thereof and the targets of exports to be achieved during each year under the plan and what percentage of the total country's exports it would constitute; and

(d) the State-wise position of Rajasthan in the export map of the country in each year of the Fourth Plan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) State-wise figures of export earnings are not maintained. Exports from the country during 1971-72, 1972-73 and 1973-74 were Rs. 1603 crores, Rs. 1971 crores and Rs. 2483 crores respectively.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

(d) In view of answer to part (b) of the question, does not arise.

Trade with East European Countries

1769. **SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether our trade with East European countries has undergone a qualitative change in recent years; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):

(a) and (b). Over the years our imports of machinery items from these countries have declined and the imports of industrial raw materials and other items of crucial importance to our economy have increased. On the other hand, manufactured goods figure more prominently than before in our exports to these countries.

Delinking Indian Trade and Commerce from Inflation affected developed Capitalist Countries

1770. **SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the inflationary trend in India is severe due to its being tied to the capitalist world market;

(b) the steps being taken to delink Indian trade and commerce from the inflation-affected developed capitalist countries and link them with the socialist countries; and

(c) if so, the main features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):

(a) India is trading with countries both in the capitalist and non-capitalist world. The inflationary pressures in the economy are due to, amongst other factors, high prices of imported food grains, fertilizers and other manufactures.

(b) and (c). The objective of the Government policy is to promote trade both with the capitalist world and the socialist countries to the optimum extent, keeping in view the principle of earning maximum foreign exchange from exports for the country and obtaining the country's import requirements at most competitive prices.

Proposal to open Hotel at Santa Cruz Airport

1771. **DR. RANEN SEN:** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal under consideration to open a hotel at Santa Cruz airport this year; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof and the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) and (b). The Hotel Corporation of India Limited, a subsidiary of Air India, is con-