

by the Central Bureau of Investigation was necessary. Government agreed with this view, and a further probe is under way.

Rupee-payment system with the Soviet Union and E.E.C.

710. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH:
SHRI P. GANGADEB:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the system of rupee-payment with the Soviet Union and East European Countries is coming to a close;

(b) whether any evaluation of its effects on our trade with these countries has been made; and

(c) if so, the main features thereof?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Rural Banks in Bihar

711. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for establishing rural banks;

(b) how many such banks are proposed to be opened in Bihar during 1976; and

(c) whether any time schedule for opening such banks has been fixed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a). Regional Rural Banks are established in areas which while having adequate development potential are inadequately served by the existing institutional credit agencies like cooperatives and commercial banks.

(b) and (c): Of the seven Regional Rural Banks established so far, one has been set up in Bihar at Arrah covering the districts of Bhojpur and Rohtas. Subject to man-power constraints, it is proposed to establish 50 Regional Rural Banks in the country before April 1977 in areas found most suitable on the basis of the criteria set out for this purpose.

Decline in the Export of Handicrafts

712 SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a decline in the export of handicrafts;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to rectify the situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Export during April-November, 1975 was Rs. 4,778.88 lakhs (provisional) as compared to Rs. 5,912.85 lakhs (final) during the corresponding period of 1974. As the figure of exports of handicrafts available for April-November, 1975 are provisional, the exact extent of decline in exports cannot be precisely indicated. However past experience shows that provisional figures are likely to be somewhat lower than final figures.

The main reason for decline in the exports of handicrafts seems to be the recession that has recently hit the economics of USA and other Western European countries.

(c) The following steps are being taken by the Government to arrest decline in exports —

(i) Centres for training in carpet weaving are being opened with a view to increasing production of carpets which have a good market. The

problems of the industry in regard to credit are being examined in depth.

- (ii) Sales-cum-Study Teams will be sent abroad in the next few months and exhibitions are also being held.
- (iii) Promotional activities and exchanges of designers are being undertaken in one of the important markets, i. e. E. E. C.
- (iv) Sufficient incentives have been given to the exporters and these will enable them to take advantage of a revival in the important foreign markets.

Jute trade and Industry

713 SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the effects of steps taken by Bangladesh to sell raw jute and jute products at cut prices on the jute trade and industry of this country; and

(b) the remedial steps taken by Government in this regard?

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

(a) As India is only a marginal exporter of raw jute, reduction, if any, of the export price of raw jute by Bangladesh is not likely to affect us much. Reduction of export prices of jute manufacturers, however, would affect demand for Indian jute goods abroad.

(b) Abolition of export duty on carpet backing and hessian and grant of cash compensatory support on export of Carpet Backing and jute decorative fabrics are among the measures adopted by Government to make Indian jute goods more competitive in markets abroad.

अभ्रक का निर्यात

714. श्री शंकर ब्याल सिंह : क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) वर्ष 1975 में अभ्रक के निर्यात के लिये कितने मूल्य के क्रयदेश प्राप्त हुए हैं ; और

(ख) प्रत्येक देश से, अलग-अलग अभ्रक व्यापार निगम और निजी निर्यातकों को कितने मूल्य के क्रयदेश प्राप्त हुए और ऐसे निजी निर्यातकों के नाम क्या हैं ?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री विश्वनाथ प्रताप सिंह) : (क) 23.87 करोड़ रु० ।

(ख) सभी निर्यात आदेश अभ्रक निर्यात निगम के नाम में है जिनकी मार्फत साधित अभ्रक का निर्यात मार्गीकृत किया जाता है । भूतपूर्व निर्यातकों को भी जो निगम के एजेंटों के रूप में काम करते हैं, उसकी ओर से विक्रय तथा क्रय की अनुमति है । दो विवरण, जिन में से एक में अभ्रक व्यापार निगम और उसके एजेंटों द्वारा प्राप्त किए गए आदेशों का देश-वार मूल्य दर्शाया गया है और दूसरे में उन एजेंटों के नाम दिखाए गए हैं, सभा पटल पर रख दिये गये हैं । [मंत्रालय में रखे गये । बेलिये संख्या एल. टी. 10135/76]

सरकार द्वारा प्रकाशित पर्यटन साहित्य

715. श्री शंकर ब्याल सिंह : क्या पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) विगत तीन वर्षों में सरकार ने कितना और किन किन भाषाओं में पर्यटन साहित्य प्रकाशित किया ; और

(ख) उस पर कितनी धनराशि खर्च की गई ?