

price or at the higher prevalent market price, to the extent permitted by the funds at its disposal. For the current season Reserve Bank of India has agreed to a cash credit of Rs. 24 crores for the Jute Corporation of India, and Government have assured the Corporation of additional funds for price support operations if necessary. So far the Corporation has purchased 5.76 lakh bales in the current season, out of which 5.65 lakh bales have been purchased either at the minimum price or at a price up to Rs. 5 above the minimum.

Economy Measures in Indian Airlines

*265. SHRI N K. SANGHI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state-

(a) whether Indian Airlines had initiated some economy measures to avert an estimated loss of Rs. 16.5 crores for the year 1974-75; and

(b) if so, the outlines of the measures and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The economy measures undertaken by the Indian Airlines included reduction in overtime payments, rationalisation of shift system, reduction in crew night stops, curtailment of some of the heavily unprofitable services, stepping up of utilisation of staff and aircraft and control on fresh recruitment. As a result of these economy measures and tightening up of productivity measures, it has been possible for the Indian Airlines to convert the anticipated loss of Rs. 16.50 crores during 1974-75 into a profit of Rs. 1.01 crores.

कोयले का निर्यात

1086. डा० लक्ष्मीनारायण पांडेय : क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) वर्ष 1976-77 में भारत किन देशों को कोयला निर्यात करेगा ;

(ख) वर्ष 1975-76 में दिसम्बर 1975 तक कितना कोयला निर्यात किया गया ; और

(ग) कोयले के निर्यात से क्या आय हुई ?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री बिह्वनाथ प्रताप सिंह) : (क) बंगलादेश, यमों तथा श्री लंका।

(ख) और (ग). 1975-76 (दिसम्बर, 1975 तक) के दौरान लगभग 13.42 करोड़ रुपये मूल्य के 3 30 लाख मे० टन कोयले का निर्यात हुआ।

Role of Banks in implementing Prime Minister's 20-Point Programme

1087. SHRI C K CHANDRAPPA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a symposium on the role of banks in implementing the Prime Minister's 20-point Economic Programme;

(b) if so, whether any evaluation of banking system and its structure and operation in relation to giving credit to rural masses for the implementation of Prime Minister's 20-Point Programme has been made; and

(c) whether in view of this re-appraisal Government has decided to give bank credit to rural poor in more effective and simpler way?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) To provide an opportunity to the bankers for exchange of views and to discuss the role of banks in implementing the Prime Minister's Twenty-Point Economic Programme, the Bankers' Club, Delhi, had organised a symposium at New Delhi, on November 16, 1975.

(b) and (c). The procedures and practices relating to lending operations of the public sector banks are being continually kept under review with a view to ensuring larger flow of credit into neglected sectors, particularly in the rural areas. The public sector banks have been specifically asked to review the existing structure of delegation of loan sanctioning powers and to secure final disposal of small loan proposals, involving credit limits of less than Rs. 10,000, within a period of two months from the date of their receipt. Eight Regional Rural Banks sponsored by the public sector banks have been set up so far with a view to developing rural economy by providing credit and other facilities to the small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers, artisans and small entrepreneurs. The public sector banks have also reported that they have taken up measures and evolved suitable programmes for facilitating flow of bank credit to the small scale productive ventures of the weaker sections of the society in the rural areas.

Commercial Transactions between India and USSR

1088. SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the volume and the amount of commercial transactions, between India and Russia during the year 1975;

(b) currency used for such transactions as well as the amounts of barter transaction;

(c) value of rupee fixed for exchange with rouble for such transaction; and

(d) whether same rate was accepted during the year 1973, 1974 and 1975?

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

(a) The exact volume and amount of

commercial transactions between India and Russia during the year 1975 is not yet known. The total trade turn-over between the two countries during 1975 is expected to be of the order of 650 crores.

(b) Indian rupee is used for commercial transactions. There is no barter transaction as such. All transactions are settled in non-convertible Indian rupees on the basis of a clearing account system.

(c) and (d). The contracts are by and large expressed in Indian rupees. In cases where the value of contracts is expressed in roubles, conversion of rouble into the Indian rupee is made at the official rate of exchange, which is Rouble 1 = Rs. 8.33. This rate of exchange is in force since 6th June, 1966.

Reconstruction of Konark with Assistance of UNESCO

1089. SHRI P. GANGADEB: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering the feasibility of reconstructing Konark with the help of technical and financial assistance from UNESCO; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in the matter from the beginning of the year 1976?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) and (b). It has been ascertained from the Archaeological Survey of India that there is no proposal to reconstructing the Sun temple at Konark with financial assistance from the UNESCO.

The Department of Tourism, however, has commissioned the preparation of a master plan of the area surrounding the Sun temple at Konark with a view to preserving the natural environment of the temple.