

as also in the PATA-India chapter audio-visual presentations made in Australia, Japan and the Middle East to promote tourist traffic from these regions.

9. 'Stop-over' tours are being arranged for inducing air travellers to stop-over in India.

10. Air India offices abroad have been arranging educational tours to encourage airlines staff, tour operators and travel agents to pay familiarisation visits to India.

Charging of high prices of Synthetic Yarn from Weavers

1106. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the manufacturers of synthetic yarn are charging high prices from the weavers; and

(b) if so, the action Government propose to take in this regard?

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

(a) While there is no information regarding high prices being charged by the nylon filament yarn manufacturers, the prices charged for polyester filament yarn, which is in short supply, are definitely high.

(b) Various measures are under consideration to increase the production of synthetic yarns in the country.

Export of Woollen Garments

1107. SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether export of woollen garments has been stepped up;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) whether woollen garments exports is more in rupee trade countries than in sterling countries? .

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Compared to the year 1973-74, the exports of woollen ready-made garments rose from Rs. 90.39 lakhs to Rs. 223.49 lakhs in 1974-75. During the current year (1975-76) also, the trend of exports is towards increase.

(c) No, Sir.

Controlled Cloth Scheme

1108. SHRI RAJA KULKARNI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state present evaluation of the controlled cloth scheme in respect of production, distribution and prices?

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

While the Statutory Control on production and pricing of certain varieties of mill-made cotton cloth was introduced in October, 1964, the current controlled cloth scheme has been in operation from 1-4-74. While introducing the scheme, a production level of 800 million sq metres in a year was kept in view. During the year 1-4-74 to 31-3-75, actual production of controlled cloth reached a level of 823 million sq. metres which was more than the level envisaged.

2. Requests have been received by Government from the industry from time to time for increase in prices of controlled cloth, as fixed on 1-4-74 and no increase has since been allowed. A high-powered committee has been set up to go into the cost and price structure of the controlled cloth.

3. Keeping in view the sluggish market conditions and the resultant

accumulation of stocks, need was felt to provide relief to financially weak units of the industry. It has been decided that such units will be eligible to apply for exemption from the production of controlled cloth for one year.

4. With effect from October, 1972, distribution of controlled cloth was also brought under statutory control and certain distribution channels were prescribed. With a view to ensure that the cloth reached vulnerable sections of the population, guidelines were issued to the State Governments to take steps to provide necessary outlets in rural and semi-urban areas and also to prescribe criteria for sale of cloth. The distribution arrangements were entrusted to the National Cooperative Consumers Federation at apex level. The distribution arrangements were kept under constant review and from time to time steps were taken to streamline the procedure. Towards the end of 1974, there was accumulation of controlled cloth. Action was taken to meet the situation by way of liberalising the distribution arrangements and also by expanding the outlets. As a result stocks of controlled cloth are expected to come down to normal levels.

Excise Duty on Indigenous Marine Diesel Engines

1109. SHRI SHANKERRAO SAVANT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra has requested the Central Government to grant complete exemption from payment of excise duty on indigenous Marine Diesel Engines with a view to encourage fishing; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Central Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a)

and (b). Yes, Sir. The Government has not taken a final decision in the matter.

Improvement in Economy of the Country after Emergency

1110. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the economy of the country has registered an improvement after the declaration of Emergency;

(b) if so, the quantum of money in circulation before Emergency and at present; and

(c) what was the level of G.N.P. in the industrial sector before Emergency and at present?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI-MATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Money supply with the public as on June 20, 1975, (immediately before the declaration of emergency) was Rs. 12,221 crores, and on January 2, 1976 (latest available) it stood at Rs. 12,275 crores.

(c) Presumably, what the Hon. Member has in mind is the G.N.P. originating in the industrial sector. These data are published only on annual basis and the latest year for which such published data are available is 1972-73. In the absence of such data for the period under reference, the nearest approximation which may be used is the Index of Industrial Production (1970 is equal to 100), which rose from 110.8 for the quarter April—June 1975 to 119.4 for the quarter July—September 1975.

Agricultural Loan given by Nationalised Banks in Eastern and North Eastern Region States

1111. SHRI SAKTI KUMAR SARKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loans given by the nationalised banks, bank-wise in