

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Their report is under consideration.

Foreign Official Dignitaries' Visits to India

2678. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU :
SHRI GANESH GHOSH :
SHRI K. M. ABRAHAM :
SHRI BHAGABAN DAS :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of foreign official dignitaries who visited India during the last twenty-one months ; and

(b) the total amount spent on them ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected.

Cash Subsidies to Exporters of Non-Traditional Items

2679. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI :
SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government offered increased cash subsidies to exporters of non-traditional items in the years 1967-68 and 1968-69 ;

(b) if so, the amount offered so far ; and

(c) to what extent his has helped in the increased exports of non-traditional items, item-wise ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (SHRI RAM SEWAK CHOWDHARY) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Higher rates of Cash Assistance were allowed on selected non-traditional export products subject to certain conditions. Increases in the Cash assistance rates were of the order of 5% and 10% of f. o. b. export value.

(c) The increased assistance to exports as well as various other measures have resulted in increases in the exports of engi-

neering goods, excluding prime iron and steel from Rs. 27.99 crores during April, 1967 to January, 1968, to Rs. 69.89 crores during April, 1968 to January, 1969 ; the exports of chemicals and allied products from Rs. 14.88 crores during April—November, 1967 to Rs. 21.69 crores during April—November, 1968.

Sona Shops

2680. SHRIMATI ILA PALCHOU-DHURI :
SHRI K. LAKKAPPA :
DR. SUSHILA NAYAR :
SHRI A. SREEDHARAN :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) the total annual sales and expenditure incurred on the five retail shops known as 'Sona' set up in New York, Boston, Paris, Nairobi and Montreal, separately, since they were set up ;

(b) whether it is a fact that more such shops are proposed to be opened in other countries ;

(c) if so, the details thereof ;

(d) when they are likely to be set up ; and

(e) the total initial estimated expenditure likely to be incurred and capital, in the shape of goods, set up, etc. to be invested ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (SHRI RAM SEWAK CHOWDHARY) : (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-308/69*].

(b) to (e). The question of opening more such shops is under examination. Details regarding location, expenditure, etc. have yet to be worked out.

Scarcity of Dyeing and Bleaching Materials

2681. SHRI NAMBIAR :
SHRI K. RAMANI :
SHRI E. K. NAYANAR :
SHRI UMANATH :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received