

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
 (c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT):
 (a) No such complaint has been received by the Government of India.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Retirement Age of NTC Employees

5453. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the retirement age of the employees working in the National Textile Corporation has been raised from 58 to 60 years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the employees of NTC are treated as the employees of the Public Sector Undertakings; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA):
 (a) and (b) In so far as NTC(HC) and its 9 subsidiaries are concerned, the retirement age of their employees has been raised from 58 to 60 years as per Government decision conveyed to NTC by the Department of Public Enterprises.

(c) and (d) The employees of NTC are treated as employees of Public Sector Undertakings.

[English]

Purchase of Helicopters by CIL

5454. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Limited has purchased a helicopter during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the company from which it has been purchased and the price thereof;

(c) whether quotations were called from any other manufacturers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Agriculture Export

5455. DR. SUSHIL INDORA:

SHRI CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to keep five per cent of the total agriculture production for exports every year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether foodgrains are also imported for domestic use;

(d) if so, the rationale behind keeping five percent of total agriculture produce for export; and

(e) the manner in which the country would be benefited by this export?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The policy of the Government to permit exports of agricultural products is governed principally by the concerns of India's food security, maximising farm incomes and earning foreign exchange. Export policy is being constantly revised and export regime in respect of agricultural products has been liberalised. Very few items are now either prohibited for exports or their exports restricted or are subject to quantitative ceilings. Major items for which the exports are banned include wheat and wheat products and sugar except under preferential quota to the EU/USA.

[English]

Foreign Tours of ITDC Officers

5456. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) sends its officers on training to foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the criteria for selection of these trainees;

(c) the purpose for which the officers are sent abroad and for how many days;

(d) the details of officers sent on deputation/training by ITDC during the last five years, giving the status thereof;

(e) whether persons other than those who have no connection with hotel industry have been selected and sent on deputation/training in the recent past; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for their selection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. With a view to upgrade knowledge and skills of human resource for improving the product and services in the competitive environment, on-the-job training is provided through various Executive Development Programmes including nomination for training abroad. The selection of officers for training abroad is made on the basis of professional requirements,