

- (i) Upward revision of Minimum Release Price (MRP) of coffee w.e.f. 08.03.1990.
- (ii) Reduction of the Central Excise Duty on coffee from Rs. 105/- per quintal to Rs. 50/- per quintal.
- (iii) Repayment of crop loan granted by the Coffee Board has been rescheduled and coffee growers can now repay the crop loan granted by the Coffee Board for the coffee season 1989-90 in two instalments, instead of one.
- (iv) The rate of REP licence has been increased from 4% to 10% in the new Import-Export Policy.

[*Translation*]

Foreign Exchange Admissible to People Going Abroad

*708. SHRI BHOGEN德拉 JHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of foreign exchange allowed to people of various sections of the society at the time of their going abroad;

(b) the maximum limit prescribed for higher officers and political leaders etc. in this regard;

(c) whether with a view to save foreign exchange, Government propose to reduce these limits; and

(d) if so, the extent thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (d). Indian residents can go abroad as tourists under the two special

Travel Schemes popularly known as Foreign Travel Schemes (FTS) and Neighbourhood Travel Scheme (NTS). Under FTS, Indian residents can go abroad once in three calendar years with an exchange release of US \$ 500/- or its equivalent. Under NTS, Indian residents can undertake travel to any country in the group of neighbouring countries (viz., Bangladesh, Burma, Malaysia, Maldives Islands, Mauritius, Pakistan, Seychelles Islands, Sri Lanka and Singapore) once in three calendar years with an exchange release of US \$ 250/- or its equivalent.

2. Minor children upto the age of 12 are, however, eligible to draw exchange only at half the normal FTS/NTS quota i.e. US \$ 250/- or its equivalent in the case of FTS and US \$ 125/- or its equivalent in the case of NTS. Both FTS and NTS are mutually exclusive.

3. Members of Parliament and members of State Legislatures are also eligible to draw foreign exchange worth Rs. 27,000/- and Rs. 16,000/- respectively for undertaking private study tour abroad during one particular term.

4. For officials' tours abroad, each proposal is examined on merits and foreign exchange is released at the prescribed scales. At present, there is no proposal to introduce changes in these arrangements.

[*English*]

Aluminium Prices

*709. SHRI KARIA MUNDA:
SHRI RAJENDRA AG-
NIHOTRI:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of aluminium

metal has increased exorbitantly consequently upon the lifting of price and distribution control;

(b) if so, the details of its impact on other industries utilising aluminium as an input; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to control the price increase of aluminium metal?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) No, Sir.

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

Increase in Taxes on Tourist Coaches

*710. SHRI N.J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a great difficulty to run the tourist coaches due to hike in taxes on tourist coaches by certain State Governments including Governments of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, whether the tourist operators and hotel industry have also been affected due to hike in petrol rates;

(c) if so, the extent Union Government are considering to assist these operators; and

(d) whether Union Government have taken any steps in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK): (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. The travel trade has indicated such a difficulty in the matter. However, since the subject of motor vehicles taxation is included in the State List to the 7th

Schedule to the Constitution, it is for the State Government to take action in the matter.

[Translation]

Awarding of Contracts in Steel Plants

*711. SHRI HUKMDEO NARAYAN YADAV: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether contracts are awarded for supply of goods in public sector Steel Plants;

(b) if so, the names of the Plants and the contractors to whom contracts were awarded during the last three years and the value thereof;

(c) whether the norms and instructions prescribed in this regard were followed fully while awarding these contracts; and

(d) if not, the action proposed to be taken by Government against the erring officials?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) to (d). The number of contracts awarded by the public sector steel plants run into several thousands. Generally the prescribed procedures are followed by the steel plants and in case of irregularities, appropriate action is taken. The compilation of the information regarding names of contractor, value of contracts and deviation from prescribed procedures etc. asked for would involve considerable time and labour which may not be commensurate with the result achieved.

Assistance to Educated Unemployed Youths in Rajasthan

*712. SHRI GULABCHAND KATARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: