

[English]

Reservation of Import/Export for SC/ST

5009. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to reserve certain percentage of items of import/export for SC/ST persons to enable the weaker sections to improve their standard of living;

(b) whether Government propose to patronise workers' associations to export leather and leather goods like shoes, etc. rather than patronising middlemen, and

(c) whether the S.T.C. has given any export order to any such shoemakers' association of Scheduled Castes for exporting leather goods and shoes, etc. and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Export of finished leather and all other leather goods like shoes, garments etc are allowed under Open General Licence. There is no proposal to patronise Workers' Association, middlemen etc to export leather and leather goods.

(c) STC had placed export orders for supply of shoes and shoe uppers to GDR on its following units which belong to SC/ST during 1989:—

Sl. No.	Name of the Unit	Item
1.	People Export, Agra	Shoes
2.	Mahesh Shoe Factory, Agra	Shoe Uppers
3.	Peoples Exports, Agra	-do-
4.	Footcare Enterprises, Agra.	-do-

[Translation]

Installation of Discs for TV Viewing in Rajasthan

5010. SHRI GULAB CHAND KATARIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages, townships and cities in Rajasthan where discs have been installed for Television viewing; and

(b) whether in view of public demand Government propose to provide this facility in maximum number of villages?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) and (b) 36 TV transmitters of different power ratings are at present functioning at various places in Rajasthan providing coverage to about 52% population of the State. On augmentation of power of 3 of the existing transmitters and establishment of one more transmitter at a new location, as spill-over schemes of the VII Plan, an estimated 67% population of the State is expected to be brought under TV coverage. It is the endeavour of the Government to extend TV service to the remaining uncovered population of the State, as expeditiously as possible, but this can be undertaken only in a phased manner depending upon the availability of funds for the purpose.

[English]

Setting up a Steel Plant at Hospet

5011. SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY:

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:

SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHA RAJA WADIYAR:

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

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has urged Union Government

to grant approval to the Mukund Iron and Steel Company to set up a one million tonnes per annum hot rolled flat steel plant at Hospet;

(b) if so, whether Union Government have taken any decision in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) to (c) Government of Karnataka have urged the Union Government to expedite setting up of a steel plant in the Bellary-Hospet area. They have also recently suggested that the Government may, if it becomes necessary, consider implementing the project in the joint sector, associating M/s. Mukand Ltd., for setting up a one million tonne plant. However, no formal application for grant of industrial licence for setting up a steel plant at this location has been received by Government from M/s. Mukand Ltd. The situation will be clear only after the VIII Plan outlays and programme for the iron and steel sector are known.

[*Translation*]

Repatriations of Money in Indian Banks Located in Gulf Countries

5012. DR. BENGALI SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, there is any possibility for transfer repatriation of money in the Indian banks located in Gulf countries;

(b) if so, the total amount that has been repatriated to India so far and how Government propose to utilise this money; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the Indian banks' branches operating in the Gulf countries

have remitted funds to India after outbreak of hostility in Kuwait. During the period 2-8-1990 to 28-8-1990 these branches remitted 35.529 million US Dollars as FCNR deposits and Rs. 400.092 million on account of their rupee sales. These funds form part of the banks' overall deposits.

Supply of Boring Pumpset to Small Farmers in Bihar

5013. SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had received complaints in December, 1989 regarding supply of boring pumpsets to small and marginal farmers in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof.

(c) the action taken against persons found guilty; and

(d) whether Government propose to compensate the affected farmers, if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) In the complaint, allegations were made about various corrupt practices on the part of the officials of Public Sector Banks and Land Development Bank regarding supply of Boring pumpsets to small and marginal farmers in Bihar. The issues raised in the letter referred to above had been brought to the notice of the Government earlier also and the matter was investigated by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). As per the report received from CBI, 15 cases have already been filed by the CBI in the High Court of Patna and the same are pending for trial in the Court. These 15 cases include prosecution against 8 bank employees and 31 private businessmen. Necessary action will be taken by concerned agencies/authorities in terms of the decision of the Court.