

sion not to appoint any private lawyer to defend the cases in the Courts especially in the Central Administrative Tribunals and such cases are to be defended by officials of respective offices without any extra remuneration or payment to such authorities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it has come to the notice of his Ministry that public money is being squandered by giving honorarium to officials engaged in defending the cases in the C.A.T. and undertaking the job of inquiring authorities in departmental proceeding cases; and

(d) if so, the details of concrete steps taken to check the wasteful expenditure?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (d) The required information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Performance of Export Houses

5057. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a majority of the recognised export houses have shown poor performance as foreign exchange earners;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total value of export subsidies sanctioned annually and the value of foreign exchange earned by the beneficiaries of these subsidies; and

(d) whether the export earnings of the recognised export houses are coming primarily from bought-out products of small scale industries rather than their own?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No separate figures are maintained for export subsidies to export houses.

(d) No separate information is maintained on the export earnings from the bought out items of the S.S.I.

[*Translation*]

Connection of Doordarshan Kendra of Eastern U.P. and Western Bihar with Lucknow

5058. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to connect Doordarshan Kendras of eastern Uttar Pradesh and Western Bihar with that of Lucknow;

(b) if so, when it is likely to be done; and

(c) whether Gorakhpur Doordarshan Kendra is likely to be allowed to telecast its own programmes?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) and (b) Doordarshan have placed firm orders for the establishment of a dedicated TV bearing microwave circuit between Doordarshan Kendra at Lucknow and number of high power TV transmitters operating in the State including those at Allahabad, Varanasi and Gorakhpur. While the TV transmitters at Allahabad and Varanasi are envisaged to be linked to Doordarshan Kendra, Lucknow during 1991, this facility is expected to become available at Gorakhpur during 1992. There is, however, no proposal to link any of the transmitters operating in Bihar with Doordarshan Kendra at Lucknow.

(c) Doordarshan Kendra, Gorakhpur is already producing and telecast-

ing programmes of local relevance for a duration of 40 minutes each day for 5 days in a week.

[English]

Inter-State Laws hindering exports

5059. SHRI BABANRAO DHAKNE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to remove irritants in inter-State laws which are hindering exports; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) and (b) There is no specific proposal for modification of any inter-State laws hindering exports.

Export Import Gap

5060. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO:
SHRI MANORANJAN
BHAKATA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the existing gap between exports and imports and the main causes thereof;

(b) whether Government propose to give more incentives to boost exports and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the likely impact of the political changes in Eastern Europe of India's balance of payment position?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) According to the provisional figures, the trade deficit during the first Quarter (April-June) of the financial year 1990-91 amounted to Rs. 1877 crores. The main causes responsible for the trade deficit are a shortfall in the exports of

Gems & Jewellery sector on account of recession in the world market for small diamonds which are exported by India and increased imports of items like Fertilizers, Pulses, Petroleum and petroleum products, Newsprint, Metalliferrous Ores & metal scrap, etc. essential for domestic consumption, investment and production.

(b) The key elements of export strategy for 1990-91 are availability of raw materials, components and capital goods to exporters at World prices, strengthening the export incentive schemes like CCS, Duty drawback, IPRS and concessionary interest rates; supportive exchange rate and demand management policies, improvement in infrastructural facilities and simplification of procedures.

(c) At present, there is no evidence to show that the changes in East Europe will have an adverse impact on the country's balance of payments position.

Demands of SBI Officers

5061. SHRI B. RAJA RAVI VARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the All India State Bank Officers' Federation has decided to launch a series of agitations to protest against the acute shortage of staff and anomalies in pay structures;

(b) if so, whether the other demands include comprehensive promotion policy and improvements in pension scheme; and

(c) the action Government propose to take in this regard?

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

(c) The issue of staff expansion in banks has now been left to a body like DPC in the individual banks. The other demands of the Federation