

(b) and (c). It is proposed to set up four new centres through the following four Textile Research Associations, which will provide necessary technical assistance to the centres :—

South India Textile Research Association.

Bombay Textile Research Association.

Ahmedabad Textile Industry's Research Association.

North India Textile Research Association.

Necessary funds for the new centres will be provided during the next financial year, i.e. 1987-88.

Status of Industry to Tourism

*336. SHRI GOPAL KRISHNA THOTA :

SHRI SRI HARI RAO :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the names of States in which tourism has been accorded the status of an industry ;

(b) whether Union Government are persuading the remaining States also to declare tourism as an industry ; and

(c) if so, their reactions ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (MUFTI MOHD. SYED): (a) to (c). So far the Governments of Himachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Uttar Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Bihar and Tripura have declared Tourism as Industry while the Governments of Orissa, West Bengal and Rajasthan have declared hotels as Industry. The other State Governments are being persuaded to take similar action.

Export of Sandal-wood oil

*339. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a substantial increase in the export of sandal-wood oil during 1985-86 ;

(b) whether there is great demand in foreign countries for the sandal-wood oil ; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to increase its export ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) Export of sandal wood in the form of logs is banned. In the case of export of handicrafts made out of sandal wood, a minimum value addition of 300% has been fixed to eliminate export of sandal wood with superficial carvings. To increase export earnings of sandal wood oil, the minimum export price (REP) has been increased from Rs. 1000/kg. to Rs. 2000/kg.

Driving Licence Racket in Capital

*340. SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a news-item captioned "Driving Licence Racket Busted" appearing in the Times of India dated 31 January, 1987 ;

(b) if so, the facts of the case ; and

(c) the action taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S. BUTA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). On receipt of information that a gang is indulging in selling forged driving licences and vehicle registration papers, a decoy customer was deputed and simultaneously a raid was organised. 64 forged driving licences, 430 blank driving licence forms, 13 blank registration books, rubber stamps etc. were seized. A case under section 420/468/471 IPC was registered at the Police Station Punjabi Bagh on 28th January, 1987 and 5 persons were arrested.