

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) Two garments fairs were recently organised in New Delhi by different Associations. On a request made by the organisers of these fairs, the Ministry authorities agreed to inaugurate the fairs.

(b) The two fairs would have provided an opportunity for larger number of Indian suppliers and foreign buyers to establish business contacts.

(c) The garment export policy for 1983 recently announced by the Government was finalised after, *inter-alia*, taking into account suggestions received from various sources.

Board of directors of Reserve Bank of India

2166. **SHRI SATYENDRA NARAIN SINHA:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Board of Directors for the Reserve Bank of India has been reconstituted; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). The Central Board and the Local Boards of the Reserve Bank of India are proposed to be reconstituted by the Government shortly.

Rise in Import Bill

2167. **PROF. RUPCHAND PAL:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that our import bill has been rising steeply for the last few months; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). According to the latest available information, the value of our imports during April-June 1982 showed an increase of about 18 per cent compared with an increase of

11 per cent in April-June 1981. The details of imports are yet not available. The higher rate of imports during the first quarter of 1982-83 might perhaps be on account of bunching of imports in that quarter. This increase in rate of growth of imports may however even out in the subsequent months of the current financial year.

Balance of payments

2168. **PROF. RUPCHAND PAL:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the balance of payments position of our country as in August, 1982; and

(b) whether the same has shown signs of imports may however even out in the instalments of IMF?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Exact details of India's balance of payments for August, 1982 would become available after about 2-3 years with the compilation of balance of payments statistics by the Reserve Bank of India. So far these data are available upto 1979-80.

However, the overall balance of payments position of the country is reflected in the movement of foreign exchange reserves which continues to remain unfavourable. Though the payments balance remains unfavourable, it was less so during April-August 1982 than during April-August, 1981. During the current fiscal year upto August, 1982 the drawing on the IMF under its extended fund facility amounted to Rs. 931 crores as a result of which foreign currency assets of the Reserve Bank increased by Rs. 324 crores to Rs. 3,678 crores by end of August; but for these drawals from the Fund, the Reserve Bank's foreign currency assets would have declined by Rs. 607 crores. During the corresponding period of 1981-82 (April-August) during which there were no drawals from the Fund, the draft on foreign currency assets amounted to Rs. 984 crores.

We have drawn from the IMF four instalments under its extended fund facility

beginning from November 1981; Rs. 321 crores in November 1981, Rs. 316 crores in January 1982, Rs. 312 crores in April 1982 and Rs. 619 crores in July 1982. The balance of payments adjustment is expected to take place in the medium term. The extended arrangement from the International Monetary Fund is designed to provide balance of payments support during the period of structural adjustment of the economy. The current account deficit, measured as a percentage of GDP, is expected to be reduced significantly over the period covered by the extended arrangement.

Gold Refinery in Ahmedabad

2169. SHRI A. NEELALOHITHA-DASAN NADAR: Will the Minister of FINANCIAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India are having plan to set up a gold refinery in Ahmedabad; and

(b) if so, the details of the plan and the progress made in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Collection-cum-Delivery Centres (Refineries) on the lines of the one operating at Calcutta Mint are proposed to be opened in different places, including Ahmedabad. Ornaments received at these Centres would be assayed and standard gold bars issued in exchange.

Further details are being worked out in consultation with all concerned.

Use of Official Language in Defence Ministry's Communications to Defence Units

2170. SHRI A. NEELALOHITHA-DASAN NADAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many letters have been sent from the Defence Ministry within the last one year to the various Defence units;

(b) how many of them were only in English;

(c) how many of them were only in Hindi;

(d) how many of them were sent both in English and Hindi;

(e) is it not a fact that according to the Official Language Act, the letters sent in English should contain a translation of Hindi also; and

(f) if so, the reasons why the Defence Ministry is not following it?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (f). The Ministry of Defence do not correspond directly with Defence Units working under Service HQrs. However, circulars and letters of general nature to Service HQrs are being issued bilingually and all letters received in Hindi are replied to in Hindi. Efforts are, however, being made to increase the percentage of originating letters in Hindi to Service HQrs. etc.

Construction of ITDC Hotels (Kanishka and Ashok Yatri Niwas)

2171. SHRI N. E. HORO: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the construction work of ITDC hotels particularly Kanishka and Ashok Yatri Niwas in New Delhi has been going on much behind the schedule;

(b) whether it is a fact that only about four floors having about 50 rooms are hardly available of the stay of tourists/visitors in Hotel Kanishka;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) by when these are likely to be opened to the public; and

(e) the extent of the delay in the completion of the work and consequential escalation in the cost of the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). 100 guest rooms in seven guest room floors alongwith restaurant,