

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. Placed in library. (See No. LT-2286/81).

(b) Capitalisation of reserves and issue of bonus shares by companies are governed by the provisions of the Capital Issues (Control) Act, 1947 and the rules made thereunder. No prior sanction and/or consent was necessary from the M.R.T.P. Commission before consent for issue of bonus shares was given to the companies mentioned in the Question.

Licence to M/s. Southern Bottlers (P) Limited for Import of Machine

*672. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:
SHRI PIUS TIRKEY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether M/s. Southern Bottlers (Private) Limited, 8, Mohan Singh Building, Connaught Lane, New Delhi was given a licence to import machine from Hungary to instal it at Madras;

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

(c) if so, whether the said machine was made in West Germany and not in Hungary;

(d) whether it is a fact that the machine is over-priced and invoice manipulation has been resorted to in this regard; and

(e) what are the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Import Licence No. P/CG.2062392 dated 17-4-1971 was issued to M/s. Southern Bottlers (Private) Limited, 8, Mohan Singh Building, Connaught Lane, New Delhi, for import of bottling machine valued Rs. 6,83,710 from Hungary. The machine was allowed to be imported for being installed at their Madras unit to replace the old equipment.

(c) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Creation of a Trade Promotion Fund

*673. SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA:

SHRI BHIKU RAM JAIN.

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has asked U.K. to consider its proposal for creating a Trade Promotion Fund with a view to boost India's marketing efforts; and

(b) if so, reaction of the British Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the context of the growing imbalance in the Indo-U.K. trade to India's disadvantage, a proposal was made at the last meeting of the Indo-British Economic Committee held in New Delhi in January, 1981, for the creation of a Trade Promotion Fund to cover bilateral trade promotion measures. The U.K. delegation expressed difficulty in the creation of such a fund to promote Indian exports to U.K. and instead suggested the visit of a high level trade mission to U.K. to identify specific areas in which exports could be increased. On the basis of the findings of such a mission, the U.K. side offered to help through training and other steps for the development of marketing techniques to enable Indian enterprises to realise their export potential.

Mineral Survey and Exploration in Rayalaseema of Andhra Pradesh

*674. SHRI K. OBUL REDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal with Government for a comprehensive mineral survey and exploration in Rayalaseema of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether Government are aware that Rayalaseema area has got several mineral deposits which are not properly exploited; and

(c) if so, what steps Government are going to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. During the current field season (October 1980—September 1981) Geological Survey of India is engaged in systematic geological mapping in the areas falling in the Districts of Chittoor and Cuddapah and in investigations of various minerals in the districts of Anantapur, Cuddapah, Chittoor and Kurnool. Mineral investigations being carried out include investigation for copper ore in Gani-Kalva area, Kurnool district; for diamond in Anantapur and Kurnool district; for gold in Chigargunta and Nandimadagu area, Chittoor district; for limestone in Vempalle belt of Cuddapah district. Besides, geomorphological and quaternary studies of gem placers in selected parts of Anantapur district and regional integrated survey for basemental and phosphorite in Cuddapah basin falling in parts of the Rayalaseema area also being carried out.

Of the known mineral occurrences from Rayalaseema, major minerals produced are Asbestos, Barytes, Clays, Dolomite, Gold, Iron Ore, Limestone, Ochre, Steatite and Quartzite. Minerals which are known to occur but not produced are copper ore, corundum, diamond and lead ore.

Exploitation of minerals, in general, is done by several agencies—private sector, state government undertakings and Central Government enterprises. Exploitation by the private sector is regulated by rules framed under the M.M.R.D. Act and Industrial Licensing procedures. As for the State sector, projects are taken up on the basis of viability, availability of resources, relative priority in the Plan etc.

Demand for distribution of Levy on Advertisements among States

*676. SHRI M. V. CHANDRA SHEKARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of State Governments have urged the Centre to levy tax on advertisements in newspapers and distribute the amount so collected among States;

(b) if so, how many State Governments have urged and suggested this; and

(c) whether Union Government have considered the suggestion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA): (a) and (b) Levy of tax on advertisements published in newspapers and distribution of the proceeds thereof to the States as permissible under Article 269 of the Constitution is one of the measures suggested by the Governments of West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Gujarat for raising additional resources for the States.

(c) At present it is not proposed to accept this suggestion.

India's share in World Trade

*679. SHRI HARINATH MISRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's share in world trade continues to decline; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) India's share in world trade had shown a declining trend till 1973. Since then it has been fluctuating between 0.50 to 0.56 per cent.

(b) Does not arise.