

Participation in South-East Asian Region by Indian Project Exports

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

(a) whether Government are aware of the need for paying more attention by the Indian industry to the growing concept of regional co-operation for the development needs of the South and South-East Asian region; and

(b) if so, the steps that have been taken or are proposed to be taken to increase the share of participation in the South-East Asian region by Indian project exporters so far?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). The Government are aware of the increasing scope for cooperation by Indian Industry in the South and South-East Asian region in the larger context of economic cooperation among developing countries. India is a member country of the ESCAP (Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) which provides a forum and a framework for promoting cooperation with countries of this region. In fact, Indian Industry are having sizeable project cooperation in this region. There are around 57 joint ventures in operation involving participation of Indian firms in the countries in the South-East Asian region and around 4 such joint ventures in the countries in the South Asian region. The fields of cooperation include power generation, transmission and distribution, civil construction, textile mills, sugar plants etc. In addition, many joint-venture proposals are under implementation in the countries of this region. Recently in January-February 1981 delegations were sponsored by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry to the ASEAN countries and to Hongkong, Taiwan and South Korea.

A number of steps have been taken to secure an increasing participation by Indian project exporters in the projects in this region. The main steps include the following:—

— To create awareness of Indian capacities and potentials for manufacture/export of plant, machinery and equipment, Engineering Export Promotion Council have drawn a programme for holding wholly Indian Exhibition (called INDEE) every alternate year in each of the ASEAN country. Such wholly Indian exhibitions were held in Singapore in 1977, in Jakarta in 1979 and in Bangkok in 1981. Similar exhibitions are proposed to be held in Kuala Lumpur in 1983 and in Manila in 1985. Exhibitions are also organised by the Trade Fair Authority in countries of this region.

— India is one of the contributing members of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), which finances a large number of projects in the region. Facilities are provided to capable Indian firms to bid for projects financed by the A.D.B.

— A high powered inter-Ministerial Committee called the Overseas Project Development Committee has been set up to attend to all matters pertaining to the promotion of Indian overseas projects;

— With a view to minimising procedural formalities for obtaining package clearance by project exporters for bank guarantees etc., a working group has been set up in the Industrial Development Bank of India.

— The revised guidelines concerning project exports provide for major relaxation with regard to the period of deferred credit (including moratorium), interest on deferred receivables, provision for bridging finance etc. A new facility regard-

ing extension of deferred credit on a selective basis towards the services segment of turn key contracts has been introduced.

Pen-down Strike by Officers of Income Tax

*466. SHRI R. L. BHATIA:
SHRI RAMJI BHAI MAVANI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether about 3,500 Income-tax (Officers and Assistant Commissioners observed a two-hour pen-down strike on 23rd February, 1981 and held a lunch-hour demonstration in support of their demands;

(b) if so, what are their demands and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps which Government propose to take to put down such acts of indiscipline on the part of such high Officers which also result in causing considerable inconvenience to the public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA): (a) Officers and staff in some of Commissioners of Income-tax Charges observed pen-down strike on 23-2-81 and staged a lunch-hour demonstration.

(b) The demands are as follows:—

(i) Abolition of class distinction among the Income-tax Officers functioning on inter-changeable posts;

(ii) Immediate promotion of all Group 'B' Income-tax Officers with five years or more service to Group 'A' senior scale;

(iii) Grant of pay-scale of Rs. 840-1200 to the Income-tax Officers (Group 'B');

(iv) Scrapping of seniority rules of 1973;

(v) Fixation of reasonable and scientific norms for all the grade of the officers of the Department; and

(iv) Proper cadre management for all officers in consultation with the Federation.

These demands have been carefully examined from time to time but it has not been found possible to accept them. The question, however, of improving the career prospects of the officers in the Income-tax Department is kept under constant review and appropriate action taken as and when considered necessary.

(c) Government have taken a serious view of the agitational approach adopted by the Gazetted (Officers represented by the Federation of Income-tax Gazetted Services Associations. The agitational methods like pen-down strike, demonstration etc. the Federation was drawn to these constitute violation of the provisions of the Conduct Rules. Attention of Rules.

The Federation have since called off their agitation.

तम्बाकू पर उत्पाद शुल्क में वृद्धि

* 267. श्री नरसिंह मकवाना : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान अहमदाबाद के उत्पाद शुल्क कलेक्टर द्वारा 11 दिसम्बर 1980 को जारी की गई उस अधिसूचना की ओर दिलाया गया है जिसके द्वारा "गडाकू" तथा "हुक्के" के लिये उपयोग में आने वाले तम्बाकू पर उत्पाद शुल्क में वृद्धि की गई है जिस के कारण सामान्य तथा निर्धन लोगों पर बोझ पड़ने की आशंका है ।

(ख) उत्पाद शुल्क में कितनी वृद्धि की गई है और इस से कितना अतिरिक्त राजस्व प्राप्त होने की आशा है;