

Foreign Trade with U.S.S.R. Through S.T.C. State Agencies

*492. SHRI DAULAT RAM SARAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons why the U.S.S.R. deals with private trading agencies in India when Government of India have their own agencies;

(b) do Government propose to insist on the U.S.S.R. to deal only with State Trading Corporation and State agencies; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the same?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c). Under the existing policy, except in the case of a few items which are canalised through State agencies, a foreign buyer/seller is free to deal with any private or State agency in India, of its choice. In the circumstances, Government do not propose to insist upon the USSR to deal with State agencies only as that would amount to discrimination.

Opening of Branches of Commercial and Regional Gramya Banks

*493. SHRI K. MALLANNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to open branches of Commercial banks and the regional gramya banks in the country during the current financial year; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the number of such new branches going to be opened in the State of Karnataka?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to available provisional data, during the year 1981 (upto September) commercial banks opened 72 branches in the State of Karnataka. As at the end of September, 1981 commercial banks including the five Regional Rural Banks had 200 licences/allotments pending with them for opening of branches in Karnataka. It

may also be mentioned that the Sixth Regional Rural Banks covering the Districts of Tumkur and Bangalore (Rural) is also expected to be set up soon.

In terms of their new branch licencing policy for 1982-83 to 1984-85, the Reserve Bank have indicated a tentative programme for opening 224 additional rural/semi-urban branches in Karnataka by Regional Rural Banks and other commercial banks. Location of these branches will be decided in consultation with banks and the Government of Karnataka for which they have been addressed by the Reserve Bank of India.

Exemption of Entertainment Tax on Osibissa Show

*494. SHRI RATANSINH RAJDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) is it a fact that the Osibissa show organised by Pure Drinks (makers of Campa Cola) was exempted from paying entertainment tax;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) how much money was collected by way of tickets for the show; and

(d) how much was contributed to Charity?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d). Necessary information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

Import of Ball and Roller Bearings

*495. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the press report of the Economic Times of 4th February, 1982 regarding import of ball and roller bearings;

(b) what are the prices of ball and roller bearings imported in the years 1978-79, 1979-80, 1980-81 and 1981-82 (up to 31 January, 1982);