

1	2	3
Singapore	355	—
Thailand	29	—
Iran	173	—
China	—	
Bangladesh	2	—
Burma	5	—
Sri Lanka	2.6	
Nepal	2	

Official Chinese Defence Expenditure figure (released in 1981 for the first time) of 11.87 on dollars was 20.7 per cent of planned Government expenditure. For 1982, the figure of 17.870 Yuan (15.72 per cent of Government expenditure) was reported. These figures are not comparable to Western Defence Estimates since the official Chinese budget figure excludes a number of items normally included in the Defence Budget in Western countries.

**Newsitem Captioned "Raids Reveal I-T Nexus with Traders"**

\*153. SHRI R.P. DAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a newsitem regarding close link between a number of senior officers and trading concerns engaged in blackmarketing and smuggling operations as appeared in the Free Press Journal of 25 October, 1983 ;

(b) if so, the facts about nexus unearthed by Income-tax authorities and action initiated by Government, if any ; and

(c) if no action taken, the detailed reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAT-TABHI RAMA RAO) : (a) and (b) The Government is aware of news-item captioned "Raids Reveal I.T. Nexus with Traders" in Free Press Journal, Bombay of 25th October, 1983. The preliminary scrutiny of the seized documents has so far not established any prima-facie case of nexus between the officials and trading concerns searched and it would be premature to conclude anything unless the investigations are completed.

(c) Does not arise.

**Passing of Excise Duty Relief to Consumers**

\*154. SHRI R. PRABHU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have ensured that the excise duty relief announced recently have been passed on to the consumers of those items ;

(b) the articles for which duty relief has not been passed on to the consumer ; and

(c) steps Government propose to take so that this duty relief are passed on to the consumer by the industry and trade ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAT-TABHI RAMA RAO) : (a) The Government have taken steps to ensure that excise duty relief, as announced from the 1st October, 1983 in respect of buses and trucks (commercial vehicles), bus-truck tyres, refrigerators, electric batteries, etc., is passed on to the consumers of these items. Following the discussions which the concerned administrative ministry had with the manufacturers of these items, the latter have agreed to pass on the excise duty relief to the consumers. The reports received so far also indicate that the prices of these items have, by and large, been reduced.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

### प्रादेशिक सेना में वृद्धि करने का प्रस्ताव

\*155. श्री हरीश रावत : क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) वर्तमान अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय स्थिति को देखते हुए दूसरी रक्षा पंक्ति को सुदृढ़ बनाने हेतु उनके मंत्रालय का क्या कार्यवाही करने का विचार है; और

(ख) क्या उनका मंत्रालय प्रादेशिक सेना के महत्व को ध्यान में रखते हुए उसकी वर्तमान संख्या में वृद्धि करने के प्रस्ताव पर विचार करेगा ?

रक्षा मंत्री (श्री आर० वेंकटरामन्) : (क) और (ख) सरकार प्रादेशिक सेना को और युद्ध और शान्ति के दौरान इसके कार्यों को बहुत महत्व देती है। जिन बातों का हमारी सुरक्षा पर प्रभाव पड़ता है उन्हें ध्यान में रखते हुए, रक्षा तैयारी के लिए बनाई गई योजनाओं की समय-समय पर समीक्षा की जाती है और उन्हें अद्यतन बनाया जाता है। इस तरह की समीक्षाओं के बनाए जाने वाले आरक्षणों की मात्रा पर भी विचार किया जाता है।

### Handing over the Management of Swadeshi Group of Cotton Mills to its Owners

\*156. SHRI K. MALLANNA :  
SHRI DIGAMBER SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some cotton mills belonging to Swadeshi Group management of which was taken by Central Government some years ago, are likely to be given back to the Swadeshi Cotton Mills Company Limited ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith their performance as well as terms, if any, in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA)). (a) No Sir, Government have not so far taken any decision to return the six cotton mills belonging to Swadeshi Cotton Mills Company Limited, which were taken over under Industries (Development & Regulation Act, 1951 in April, 1978.

(b) Does not arise.

### Recovery of Dues from Clients by Nationalised Banks

\*157. PROF. RUPCHAND PAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) how is it that the rural money lenders never fail to recover their dues from their clients whereas the nationalised banks are unable to recover their dues from the clients ;

(b) whether there is something wrong in the procedures of the working of the nationalised banks ;

(c) if so, whether Government intend to review the working of nationalised banks ; and

(d) if so, by what time and details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAT-TABHI RAMA RAO) : (a) No information is available with regard to recovery of dues by rural moneylenders from their clients. However, the recovery position of nationalised banks in respect of direct agricultural advances was around 53% of demand in June 1981.

(b) The procedures adopted by nationalised banks for recovery of dues are not faulty.

(c) and (d) There is continuous review of the working of nationalised banks by RBI and Government.

### Free Trade Zone at Paradip Port

\*158 SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state whether Government are considering any proposal for declaring Paradip Port as Free Trade Zone ?