

recommendations. A few of the recommendations are still under consideration of the Ministry of Finance in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India, Central Bureau of Investigation, and the concerned Departments/Ministries.

Stay of Officers in Central Excise and Customs Department at one place

*71. SHRI MOHANRAJ KALINGARAYAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any period of stay at one place for Deputy Collector, Central Excise and Customs has been prescribed;

(b) if so, the duration of the period; and

(c) whether some of the officers, who had been transferred out of Delhi on promotion in 1970, have been brought back to Delhi, although they had not stayed in their posts for even three years and appointed against posts carrying Special Pay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) and (b). No period as such has been prescribed although the Deputy Collectors are usually transferred after a stay of three years at one place.

(c) There are several instances where officers promoted to the rank of Deputy Collector in 1970 had to be transferred before completing a stay of three years to special pay posts at Delhi. These include one officer who having been posted out of Delhi on promotion as a Deputy Collector in April, 1970 was transferred to Delhi in December, 1972 to a special pay post.

Consortium of Indian Manufacturers for setting up Joint Venture Abroad

*72. SHRI H. M. PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to encourage the formation of a

consortium of Indian manufacturers to set up large sized joint ventures in other countries;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and various industrialists in this regard; and

(c) whether any scheme has been worked out as regards the countries where such joint ventures are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA):

(a) There is no proposal before the Government for the formation of a consortium of Indian manufacturers to set up joint ventures abroad.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Decline in India's Foreign Exchange Reserves

*73. SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's Foreign Exchange Reserves are likely to decline by the end of March-April, 1973; and

(b) if so, the assessment regarding the balances of payments position in 1973 and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The position of the balance of payments in 1973 is likely to be a matter of concern. Its viability would greatly depend on our ability to speedily expand the domestic production in critical sectors so as to reduce the pressure on imports, expansion of exports and implementation of import substitution programmes.

Production and Requirements of Natural Rubber

*75. SHRI C. JANARDHANAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether we are reaching near self-sufficiency in the matter of natural rubber production;