

connection with similar religious festivals; and

(d) if so, the steps so far taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) and (b) The Exposition of the body of St. Francis Xavier is an occasion which interests millions of Catholics all over the World. Government of India Tourist Offices overseas gave publicity to this event to attract foreign tourists to India.

An additional passenger lounge was constructed at Dabolim airport and the Indian Airlines operated special flights to handle the tourist rush on this occasion.

(c) and (d) Government of India Tourist Offices overseas have full information on Indian festivals that attract foreign tourists and these festivals are given extensive publicity abroad.

#### Soviet Foreign Trade Bank in India

\*771 SHRI D. P. JADEJA.

SHRI NAWAI KISHORE SHARMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Soviet Foreign Trade Bank is likely to be allowed to open a branch in India; and

(b) if so, the particulars thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSIILA ROHATGI) : (a) and (b) : To an enquiry about the possibility of establishing a representative office in India, the Bank of Foreign Trade of the USSR has been informed of our agreement, in principle, to the proposal. There is also the understanding that USSR will also permit the State Bank of India to open a representative office in USSR. Formal communication from the Bank of Foreign Trade of the USSR, supported by the Central Bank of USSR, is still awaited by the Reserve Bank of India.

The proposed representative office will not undertake banking transactions but would be concerned broadly with the study of the possibilities of widening and improving economic relations between the USSR and India and be of assistance to those Soviet Organisations who enter into contracts with Indian exporters and importers.

#### Charges of Smuggling Against Directors/Shareholders of M/s. Tata Mills Ltd.

\*775 SHRI SAI PAL KAPUR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the shareholders/directors of Tata Mills Limited arrested so far on smuggling charges,

(b) whether any sorts of raids were conducted at their premises; and

(c) the names of articles recovered from them in the raids indicating the present position of the articles so recovered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) From the information available with the major Custom Houses, it is ascertained that none of the directors of Tata Mills Limited, Bombay, have been arrested on charges of smuggling, nor have any raids been conducted on their premises.

The total number of shareholders in this Company as on 18-4-72 was more than 13,700. These shareholders are spread all over the country. The information regarding the shareholders arrested so far on charges of smuggling will therefore, have to be collected from the field formations all over the country. Collection of the desired information therefore, will involve considerable time and labour which may not be commensurate with the results that may be achieved. However, if the Honourable Member desires to have information about any particular shareholder(s), the same can be collected and laid on the table of the House.

(c) : Does not arise in view of (a) & (b) above.