

CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) No. Sir. Creation and filling up of posts in India Tourism Development Corporation are being regulated as per guidelines issued by the Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Violation of Customs Regulations by Balyogeshwar

***863. SHRI DALIP SINGH:
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:**

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised the customs case against Shri Prem Pal Singh Rawat *alias* Balyogeshwar;

(b) if not, when the case is likely to be finalised; and

(c) what difficulties Government are experiencing in finalising the case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The case in respect of the goods which were seized was decided in October, 1973. The seized goods were confiscated absolutely. The order of confiscation is under appeal. The proceedings under Section 112 of the Customs Act, 1962 to determine liability for penal action against the persons concerned in the illegal importation, are pending.

A show cause notice was issued under Section 112 and reply was also received. The matter is pending for completion of personal hearing including examination of witnesses. Some hearings have taken place and adjourned at the request of the party's advocate. The case is again being fixed for hearing shortly.

Private Secretaries on Deputation in I.T.D.C.

***864. SHRIMATI ROZA DESHPANDE:** Will the Minister of TOUR-

ISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the services of some officials in the rank of Private Secretaries have been borrowed on deputation by India Tourism Development Corporation from other Departments/Ministries during the last three years;

(b) whether these officials before joining I.T.D.C. were working as stenographers in the pre-revised pay scale of Rs. 220—530;

(c) whether these officials have been permanently appointed in the scale of Rs. 700—1250 and their pay fixed at Rs. 1100 per month; and

(d) if so, the names of the officials, the justification for their absorption and grant of such high salaries along with other fringe benefits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a). India Tourism Development Corporation has not borrowed the services of any official in the rank of Private Secretary from other Department/Ministries during the last three years (1972-73 to 1974-75).

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Advancing of Loans to Farmers by Banks of Palamau District, Bihar

***865. KUMARI KAMLA KUMARI:**

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state whether Government propose to issue instructions to the banks of Palamau District of Bihar to advance loans to farmers for the Development of Agriculture?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): Government have been constantly urging the public sector banks to increase their lending to the agricultural sector and especially to small farmers. Guidelines have also been issued by the Reserve Bank of India for finan-

cing of agriculture by the commercial banks. It is not the practice of the Government to issue direct instructions to specific branches of the banks to grant loans to individuals or to any specific category of borrowers. Such matters are exclusively dealt with by the banks management.

Excise Duty on Cotton in Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories

*867. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the levy of 1 per cent *ad valorem* excise duty on cotton in cotton ginning and pressing factories proposed under the current year's central budget is creating host of problems for ginning and pressing factories;

(b) if so, whether Government are reconsidering the question of imposition of duty on these items; and

(c) if so, the decision taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a). Following the levy of 1 per cent excise duty under the item 68 of the Central Excise Tariff, cotton ginning factories were initially held to be covered within its scope. As a result, a large number of representations were received, some of which raised doubts about the legality of charging the duty on ginned cotton, and pointed out various difficulties experienced by the ginning units in complying with the excise formalities.

(b) and (c). The Government having reconsidered the matter has since decided that ginned cotton is not liable to pay the aforesaid 1 per cent duty and instructions have been issued accordingly to all the field formations.

Collaboration with West European Manufacturers of Leather goods

*869. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether interest in collaboration with Indian parties in producing leatherware has been sought by some West European manufacturers of leather goods; and

(b) if so, the names of the countries with whom collaborations have been reached and the progress thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):

(a). Yes, Sir.

(b). Two proposals of collaboration with West German firms have been approved recently. One proposal of collaboration with a U.K. firm is under consideration.

Tax Liabilities of M/s Maganlal Chhagan Lal of Bombay

871. SHRI SAT PAL KAPUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of income-tax, wealth-tax, gift tax and other taxes outstanding against M/s Maganlal Chhagan Lal of Bombay as on the 31st March, 1972, 1973 and 1974;

(b) the total amount of various taxes paid by them during the above three financial years;

(c) whether any prosecutions have since been launched for non-payment of the arrears of taxes, if so, the particulars thereof; and

(d) the various steps taken during these three years to realise the outstanding amount of taxes and the success achieved and what further steps are proposed to be taken?