

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE) :
 (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. This is proposed to be done by constituting a spearhead team consisting of three to five members for each of the Regional Rural Banks. These teams will make survey of the areas with growth potential for promotion of Farmers' Service Societies and prepare bankable projects for consideration.

(c) Primary Cooperative Credit Societies properly strengthened and re-organised into viable multi-purpose cooperative societies or Farmers' Service Societies are expected to be the main agencies for meeting the credit needs of rural areas. They may be financed either by a co-operative bank or commercial/Regional Rural Bank.

Balance of Trade

*147. SHRI ARVIND M. PATEL :
 SHRI VEKARIA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) The balance of trade position till date; and

(b) the extent of improvement registered, if any, during the last one year?

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

(a) and (b). The deficit in India's balance of trade increased marginally to Rs. 1216 crores in 1975-76 as compared with Rs. 1190 crores in 1974-75. However, there was a surplus balance of Rs. 88.5 crores during the first quarter (April-June) of 1976-77 as against an adverse balance of Rs. 311.4 crores during the corresponding period of last year.

राजस्थान से ऊन का निर्यात

* 149. श्री लालजी भाई : क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि गत तीन वर्षों में राजस्थान से विदेशों को कितनी ऊन का निर्यात किया गया ?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री विश्वनाथ प्रताप सिंह) : ऊन निर्यातों के आंकड़े राज्यवार अथवा क्षेत्रवार नहीं रखे जाते बल्कि अखिल भारत के आधार पर रखे जाते हैं ।

Implementation of recommendation of Banking Commission Regarding Discretionary Powers of Managers of Nationalised Banks

*150. SHRI P. GANGADEB : Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Banking Commission's recommendation regarding giving of discretionary powers to the nationalised banks' managers has been implemented; and

(b) The steps being taken to tighten the loose-ends of the administration in the banks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Public sector banks have taken several steps to tighten the loose ends of administration, prominent among these are :

(i) decentralisation of decision making authority and effective delegation of powers, improved loan appraisal machinery, and accelerated disposal of work through special area clearance drives;

(ii) ensuring of punctuality, cleanliness, discipline, activation of vigilance

procedures, better staff relations and reduction in overtime; and

- (iii) ensuring definite improvements in the content and quality of customer service.

Chinese Ship Found Involved in Smuggling Activities

*154. SHRI K. MALLANNA : Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Customs Authorities had impounded a Chinese Ship 'Waglan Island', at Cochin for indulging in smuggling activities; and

(b) if so, the particulars regarding the persons found guilty of the charges of smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE) :

(a) M. V. Waglan Island, belonging to M/s. Hongkong Island Shipping Co., Hongkong was seized by Cochin Customs on 21-5-1975 for indulging in smuggling activities.

(b) So far Mr. Li Chi Wing, master of the vessel, Waglan Island and Mr. Sze Wan Cheng, Second Bosuncum-Steward have been found guilty smuggling. The case against other suspects is under examination.

Steps to Boost Export of Coffee

*155. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the steps Government have taken to boost the export of Indian Coffee to other countries?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : The steps taken to boost export of Indian Coffee include :

- (i) Participation in Trade Fairs and Exhibitions abroad to popularise Indian Coffee.

(ii) Release of advertisements in Foreign Trade Journals about Indian Coffee in potential coffee consuming countries of the World.

(iii) Increased direct exports of coffee by Coffee Board both to traditional and non-traditional markets.

(iv) Export of Coffee in the form of instant coffee.

देश में सोने का लाया जाना

*156. श्री विभूति मिश्र : क्या राजस्व और बैंकिंग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या हाल ही में देश में सोने के लाये जाने पर प्रतिबन्ध लगाने के लिये कोई कदम उठाये गये हैं ; और

(ख) क्या सरकार सोने के प्रति लोगों के सहज आकर्षण को कम करने के लिये कोई योजना बना रही है ?

राजस्व और बैंकिंग विभाग के प्रभारी राज्य मंत्री (श्री प्रगब कुमार मुखर्जी) :

(क) तस्करी के माल एवं सोने के चोरी छिपे लाने को रोकने के लिये, सारे समुद्र तट और स्थल सीमाओं के साथ साथ पूर्ण रूप से निवारक जांच पड़ताल तेज कर दी गयी है। निवारक और प्रामूचना कर्मचारियों को, विशेष रूप से भारत-पाक सीमा पर सावधान कर दिया गया है और देश में सोने को चोरी छिपे लाने की सम्भावना के विरुद्ध अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डों पर जांच तेज कर दी गयी है।

(ख) स्वर्ण नियंत्रण अधिनियम के अन्तर्गत, किसी व्यक्ति द्वारा शुद्ध सोना रखने पर पूर्णरूप से रोक लगी हुई है। स्वर्ण की वस्तुएं और स्वर्ण मुद्राएं, बिना घोषणा-पत्र दाखिल किये, 50 ग्राम की निर्धारित सीमा से अधिक नहीं रखी जा सकती। इन पाबन्दियों और साथ ही आय