

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Inquiry into Income-tax and Wealth-tax lapses of Monopoly Houses

*181. SHRI S. N. MISRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Monopoly Houses whose Income-tax and Wealth tax lapses are being inquired into by a Special Cell in the Ministry of Finance; and

(b) the time by which the inquiries are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) The Special Cell in the Directorate of Inspection (Investigation) has been asked to study the techniques of the tax evasion/tax avoidance practised by the big Industrial houses. At present the Special Cell has taken up detailed investigation of Birla Group and Bajoria-Jalan group.

(b) This does not arise. The Special Cell has all-India jurisdiction and would be in a position to assist the Income-tax officers concerned with the assessment of cases in these groups by making necessary enquiries. Assessments would be completed by the Income-tax Officers in accordance with the law.

Visit of a Delegation to USA and Canada for Import of Newsprint

*182. SHRI DEVINDER SINGH GARCHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Delegation visited Canada and the United States to secure maximum quantity of newsprint in the background of acute shortage at home; and

(b) the reasons why the country is getting only a fraction of the contracted quantity of the newsprint?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The supplies of newsprint have been somewhat short of the contracted quantities on account of strike in paper mills and Rail roads in Canada, difficulties in securing shipping space from Scandinavia and lower production in Bangladesh.

Import of Indian Raw Materials by GDR

*183. SHRI P. VENKATASUB-BAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the German Democratic Republic have shown an interest in importing more Indian raw materials;

(b) if so, the names and quantum thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA): (a) to (c). A GDR delegation had visited India in October, 1973 and expressed the view that expansion of trade in traditional commodities should be an important element of the strategy to expand trade between the two countries. Among the traditional commodities it had expressed an interest in increasing imports from India were items like oilcakes, crushed bones, semi-finished hides and skins, spices, coffee, mica, etc. It was indicated to the GDR delegation that the scope for expansion of exports in these commodities was limited. It was agreed that both India and GDR would make efforts to expand and diversify trade between the two countries and will meet the import needs of both the countries.