

Re-organisation of tourist offices abroad

*804. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of offices of the Department of Tourism are functioning in other countries;

(b) whether any survey has been made to assess the utility of these offices vis-à-vis the expenditure incurred thereon; and

(c) whether Government propose to re-organise the network of tourist offices abroad in the light of experience gained?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KUSHIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Although no formal Cost Benefit Survey of individual Tourist Offices overseas has been made, the Department of Tourism sponsored an in depth study of cost benefit ratio of tourism in India through the National Council of Applied Economic Research. The cost of promoting tourism to India in terms of total outflow of foreign exchange including expenditure on tourist offices in 1972-73 was 5.1% of the gross income from tourists in that year. The expenditure on tourist offices overseas was about 1/10th of 5.1% of gross tourist earnings from tourism according to the findings of this independent organisation. In other words the expenditure was very small compared to the gross income from tourism.

(c) The Government follows a pragmatic policy in respect of location of tourist offices overseas. The Department of Tourism have opened new tourist offices where potential is greater and have closed down offices where potential is found to be limited.

विकासशील देशों को भारतीय वस्तुओं का निर्यात

*805 श्री भानु कुमार शास्त्री : क्या वाणिज्य तथा नागरिक पूर्ति और सहकारिता मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या विकासशील देशों को भारतीय वस्तुओं के निर्यात को प्रोत्साहन देने के लिये सरकार ने कोई विशेष प्रयास किया है, और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो इसके क्या परिणाम निकले ?

वाणिज्य तथा नागरिक पूर्ति और सहकारिता मंत्री (श्री मोहन शारदा) : (क) नई सरकार नियति बढ़ाने के लिए जो महान प्रयत्न कर रही है, वे हैं: सरकारी तथा गैर सरकारी क्षेत्र के व्यापार संगठनों से कार्यालय खुलवाना, व्यापार प्रतिनिधिमण्डल आमंत्रित करना, व्यापार मेला तथा प्रदर्शनियों में भाग लेना आदि।

(ख) यही उन परिणाम बताना संभव नहीं है।

Credit facilities to monopoly houses

*806. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY:

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the credit facilities to the monopoly houses have been relaxed;

(b) if so, to what extent and the reasons for the same; and

(c) to what extent the relaxation has been made in the credit policy to the industries and exporters?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE & REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) to (c) The basic objective of the new credit policy announced by the Reserve Bank of India on May 27, 1977 is to restrain monetary expansion and at the same time to promote capital investment, aid production and exports as well as augment the supplies of essential goods. While there has been no relaxation in the credit policy announced by the RBI in favour of 69 large industrial groups registered under section 26 of the MRTP Act, 1969, banks continue to extend credit facilities to them in order to meet their genuine productive requirements, as they do in the case of other borrowers. Banks exercise utmost caution in their case to ensure that the amounts drawn by the borrowers are the minimum required for their immediate legitimate needs and are used for the purposes for which they are drawn.

With a view to giving further stimulus to exports and to long term capital investment, banks have been advised by the Reserve Bank by its circular of May 27, 1977 as follows:

(i) The interest rate (inclusive of interest tax) on term loans extended by them for capital investment to industry for a period not less than 3 years should not exceed 12.5 per cent;

(ii) Under the new refinance policy banks will be entitled to 50 per cent refinance of the incremental performance in its export credit over the annual average performance of 1976.

(iii) Upto March, 1978 the export credit refinance will be at 10.5 per cent only.

Export of Gur to Africa and South East Asian Countries

*807. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT :

SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of gur for the 1976-77 season is in excess of the demand in the country;

(b) if so, what quantity of gur is lying unsold at the market centres of the country;

(c) whether the sugar-cane growers have urged Government for exporting gur Africa and South East Asian countries; and

(d) what steps Government have taken to help the gur producers to overcome their economic difficulty?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA) : (a) Estimates of gur production for the year 1976-77 are not available yet. These are normally compiled after the closure of the Sugar season.

(b) According to the reports received by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, from their regional market units, sizeable stocks of 'gur' are available at producing centres in Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. However, it is not possible to give any correct estimate of the accumulated stocks of 'gur' at the various market centres of the country.

(c) and (d). Some requests have been received from sugarcane growers/traders regarding the export of gur. However, gur being an article of mass consumption and in view of the high ruling prices and the past experience of the adverse effects of its export on internal market prices, its export is not normally allowed except in very small quantities. It is expected that the present stocks of gur with the traders would be disposed in the domestic market without any economic difficulty.

*808. SHRI SHANKERSINHJI VAGHELA :

SHRI ANANT DAVE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the Union Bank of India, a nationalised bank, had made fictitious advances of crores of rupees to various parties;

(b) if so, the amount so advanced and the names of parties to whom advanced;

(c) whether the recovery of these advances is doubtful; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE & REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATIL) : (a) to (d). Union Bank of India has reported that it has not granted fictitious advances running into crores of rupees. However, as per information available with the Bank, two fictitious advances were granted from the Bhopal Branch amounting to Rs. 28,100/- as a result of fraud and impersonation on the part of two private individuals. Besides, advances amounting to Rs. 50,800/- were sanctioned to 11 parties by the Mubarakpur Branch Manager. The names of the fictitious parties and the amount outstanding against each are set out in the Statement.

As far as the fictitious advances granted from the Bhopal Branch are concerned, the matter was reported to the Police, as a result of which two persons were arrested, but later released on bail, and the case is still under investigation of the Police. The Bank is separately conducting an enquiry against the officials concerned.

In the case of Mubarakpur Branch, the Branch Manager was held responsible and dismissed from the Bank's service in January 1975. The Central Bureau of Investigation also conducted an enquiry and as a result the Branch Manager was charged sheeted u/s 709 IPC, and u/s 5(2) read with 5(1)(c) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947 and convicted by the Lower Court. The case is now pending in appeal in the High Court.

According to the Bank, the recovery of these advances is doubtful and therefore, the Bank has made full provision for the entire amount under the Head "Bad and Doubtful Debts".