

that during the quarter 1st January, 1977 to 31st March, 1977 297 cases of frauds which includes cases of misappropriation and embezzlement have been reported to it by various banks. The total amount involved in these cases aggregated to Rs. 71.65 lakhs.

(c) Whenever a fraud is detected by a bank, it holds internal enquiries and appropriate action is taken against the staff found to be guilty. Depending upon the nature and magnitude of the fraud, cases are also handed over to the local police or the Central Bureau of Investigation for investigation.

(d) All banks have their own books of instructions indicating the precautions and safeguards to be taken for preventive of frauds and they are constantly kept under review. In addition, all banks are required to report to R.B.I. about frauds perpetrated in their offices as soon as such frauds come to their notice. In the light of the *modus operandi* of the frauds and the nature of failure in observing the usual internal controls, the banks concerned are advised by Reserve Bank of India about additional safeguards and precautions to be taken to avoid the recurrence of such frauds.

Reserve Bank of India has also been issuing from time to time instructions to the banks indicating the nature of frauds and the safeguards that should be taken for the prevention of frauds.

Development of Tea Plantation Industry in Tripura

*77. SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about the possibility of considerable development of tea plantation industry in Tripura;

(b) if so, whether any assessment about the potential of this industry has been made; and

(c) whether Government are considering steps for further development of Tea Industry in cooperation with the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Techno-Economic Survey of the tea industry in Tripura has been completed and the data collected is being processed.

(c) Yes, Sir. Such steps are presently under consideration by the Tea Board of India.

Custom Haul from Ships by Dock Intelligence Unit of Bombay

*78. SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was customs haul worth eight lakhs of rupees from ships by the newly formed Dock Intelligence Unit of Bombay;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against the persons held responsible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGRAWAL): (a) to (c). Presumably, the question refers to two seizures of contraband goods of a total value of Rs. 8,08,078 effected by the Dock Intelligence Unit of Bombay Custom House. The report received by the Government shows that on 23-1-78, during the course of baggage examination of passengers landed from 'M. V. NOOR-JAHAN', 60 packages without any

marks and left abandoned in the baggage hall were seized by the Dock Intelligence Unit on finding that the packages contained contraband textiles, wrist watches, cigrattes, television and other miscellaneous goods valued at Rs. 4,55,373. 50 packages which had been found in similar circumstances by the Dock Intelligence Unit during the course of baggage examination of passengers landed from 'M. V. Akbar', were seized on 25-1-78. These also contained contraband textiles, car radio cassettes, wrist watches, calculators, gold sovereigns etc. collectively valued at Rs. 3,52,705. In both the cases, the contraband goods were seized as unclaimed. It has not been possible to find out any person connected with these goods. The question of taking action against any person has not, therefore, arisen yet.

Termination of Services of 24 Employees in the Office of Accountant General Madhya Pradesh

*79. DR. SARADISH ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that the office of Accountant General, Madhya Pradesh has terminated services of 24 employees on account of May, 1974 strike; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to reinstate them?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The question of reinstatement of employees, whose services were terminated for participating in May, 1974 strike is a general issue affecting not only the employees of the Indian Audit and Accounts Department but also those of other Departments. The matter is under active consideration of the Government.

Trade Protocol between India and U.S.S.R.

*80. SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a trade protocol for the year 1978 has been concluded between India and USSR;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such protocol is expected to increase trade between the two countries; and

(d) if so, the details of items included therein and expected rise in percentage with comparative figures of both import and export of last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION: (SHRI ARIF BEG): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The Indo-Soviet trade protocol, for 1978 envisages a total trade turnover of Rs. 1056 crores consisting of imports from USSR for around Rs. 472 crores and exports to the USSR of around Rs. 584 crores.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The items of import from the USSR include crude oil, kerosene and diesel oil, urea and other fertilizers, chemicals, non-ferrous metals like Zinc, Nickel, Platinum, etc; cotton, asbestos, newsprint and machinery. The items of exports to the USSR include a number of non-traditional products like medicines, pharmaceutical products cosmetic goods, linoleum, tomobile storage battery, garage equipment, hand tools, computer software, steel products, wood veneers, spectacle frames, etc. and traditional products like tea, coffee, spices, hides and skins.

The expected rise in the trade turnover in 1978 over 1977 is around 15 per cent. The figures of import and export during 1974 to 1976 are shown in the statement attached.