

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI RAM SEWAK) : (a) and (b). It is too early to assess the extent of benefit accruing to the exporters of tea and jute as a result of the proposal in the Central Budget for 1970-71 for the abolition of export duty on tea and reduction in export duty on certain jute manufactures. The proposal, is expected to impart competitive strength in the international market and to increase exports from India resulting in more foreign exchange earning to the Government.

(c) In view of the limited nature of the reduction in duty, the jute growers are not affected in any way. The jute prices are at present ruling above the minimum support level and the growers are already deriving the benefit of these higher prices.

भारतीय वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग मंडल महासंघ द्वारा वैदेशिक व्यापार के राष्ट्रीयकरण का विरोध

\* 883. श्री रामावतार शास्त्री :

श्री हिम्मतसिंहका :

क्या वैदेशिक व्यापार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि भारतीय वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग मंडल महासंघ के 43 वें वार्षिक अधिवेशन के अवसर पर व्यापार तथा उद्योग प्रतिनिधियों ने वैदेशिक व्यापार तथा अनाज के थोक व्यापार के राष्ट्रीयकरण का कड़ा विरोध किया है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस सम्बन्ध में सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

वैदेशिक व्यापार मंत्रालय में उप-मंत्री (श्री राम सेवक) : (क) जी हां ।

(ख) सरकारी अभिकरण आयात तथा निर्यात व्यापार के साथ-साथ खाद्यान्न की वसूली और वितरण का कार्य भी अधिकाधिक कुशलतापूर्वक कर रहे हैं, अतः देश के विदेशी व्यापार में, जिसमें खाद्यान्न का व्यापार शामिल है, उनके भाग को और भी बढ़ाने का विचार है ।

### High Expenditure incurred on Show Rooms in Foreign Countries

\*884. SHRI R. BARUA :

SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU:

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Show Rooms opened in the foreign countries to exhibit/sell Indian goods are proving very expensive and the Public Accounts Committee has recently declared some of them as useless ;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) the total number of Show Rooms opened at present abroad and the total amount of expenditure incurred on their opening/maintenance etc; and

(d) the details of Government's assessment about thier usefulness and whether it is proposed to close some of them ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI RAM SEWAK) : (a) to (c). 16 Showrooms were set up for rotational display of Indian goods with the object of creating interest abroad in our products through visual publicity and trade promotion. 8 showrooms were subsequently closed since it was considered that the initial objective for which they had been created had been achieved; 5 were transferred to S.T.C. which have been subsequently converted into S.T.C.'s Offices. The remaining 3 at Cairo, Kabul and Bahrain are being run as Government establishments. Public Accounts Committee have advised the Government to consider the desirability of handing over these 3 Showrooms also to S.T.C. for being run on commercial lines and the matter is under S.T.C.'s consideration. An expenditure of about Rs. 42.40 lakhs has been incurred on these three Showrooms from their inception (July 1957, August 1961 and February 1961 respectively) till end of February, 1970, which works out to an average expenditure of about Rs 1.40 lakhs per Showroom per annum.

(d) A Committee is presently going into the whole question and the matter will be decided in the light of the recommendations of this Committee.