

cakes and iron-ore; and

STATEMENT

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have identified broad 'Thrust Sectors' for promotion of exports without undermining the importance of other items which are otherwise exported. A list of 'Thrust Sectors' is given in the attached statement.

(c) Processed foods like, tomato paste and other tomato products, tropical fruit juices, pulp, concentrates and preserved mushrooms etc. have been identified for export, as these items are easily available in the country. The exports of these items will earn free foreign exchange for the country as well as improve the position of the farmers of the country in the long term because they will become a source of income for these farmers as well as act as a means of enhancing the returns to farmers. This will thus contribute to improving to the health of the weaker sections of society also.

(d) and (e). Presently the exports of oil seeds like Castor Seed, Cotton Seed, Linseed, Sunflower Seed, Soyabean, Mustard/Rapeseed etc. is banned. Export of some oil seeds like sesame seed, HPS groundnut, sunflower seeds and niger seeds is permitted. The exports of deoiled cakes like deoiled groundnut extraction, deoiled rice bran, soyabean extraction etc. is, however, permitted. Government does not intend to make any change in this policy at present because the existing policy protects the interest of the domestic consumer as well as those of the farmers alongwith earning valuable foreign exchange for the country. As regards Iron ore, the resources at present are adequate to meet both domestic demand and export demand.

LIST OF THRUST SECTORS

1. Tea, especially in package and value added forms;
2. Cereals, in particular wheat;
3. Processed foods, including fruit and Juices, and products and fresh fruits & meat vegetables;
4. Marine products, especially in value-added forms;
5. Iron ore;
6. Leather and leather manufactures, with an emphasis on the latter;
7. Handicrafts and Jewellery;
8. Capital goods and consumer durables;
9. Electronic goods and computer software;
10. Basic chemicals;
11. Fabrics, piece-goods and made-ups;
12. Readymade garments;
13. Woollen fabrics and Knitwear;
14. Projects and services; and
15. Granite.

[English]

Foreign Visits of Government Officers

391. SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have

curbed the outflow of foreign exchange;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the specific steps taken in this regard;

(d) whether the Government have cleared the foreign visits of some officials during the last three months despite ban on foreign tours of Government officers;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) the number of Government officials who went abroad during the last three months and purpose of their visits; and

(g) the amount of foreign exchange spent on these visits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) to (e). There is a ban on foreign tours of Government officers with certain exceptions which *inter-alia* include tours for commercial, aid for foreign policy negotiations.

The proposals for the foreign visits of officers are thoroughly scrutinised and only such visits are allowed which are inescapable and where full justification is available.

(f) and (g). The information is not centrally maintained and will have to be collected from all Ministries/Departments/Offices of the Government of India. The time and labour involved in collecting the information may not be commensurate with objective to be achieved.

New Textile Policy

392. SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have considered the recommendations of the Abid Hussain's Committee report on the Textile Policy, 1985;

(b) if so, what will be mode of the new textile policy;

(c) whether the new policy is expected to bring the industry to the international level; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (d). Recommendations of the Abid Hussain Committee are under consideration of the Government.

[*Translation*]

Induction of Private Buses Under DTC

393. SHRISHIV SHARAN VERMA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:-

(a) whether some private buses have been inducted under D.T.C. operation recently;

(b) if so, the total number thereof and the number of permits issued to the persons belonging to SC/ST;

(c) the number of buses initially proposed to be inducted;

(d) the reasons for not achieving this target; and

(e) the steps being taken for inducting the remaining buses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.