

rial, and improving transport facilities.

(c) During 1976, the number of foreign tourists who visited the Andaman Islands was 92.

(d) Government do not propose to construct any hotel in the Islands. However, Department of Tourism has received two proposals from private parties for approval of hotel projects at Port Blair.

Opening of a Branch of State Bank at Diglipur, North Andaman

2930. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) when Government took decision to open a branch of State Bank at Diglipur, North Andaman; and

(b) whether the branch has since been opened and if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) and (b). The Reserve Bank of India have reported that a licence to open a branch at Diglipur, North Andaman, was issued to the State Bank of India on February 24, 1970. The Bank has not, however, been able to open its office at this place due to lack of certain infrastructural facilities. Considering these difficulties the Reserve Bank have been extending the validity period of the licence upto December 30, 1977.

Representation from Workers of Rubber Plantation at Kachal, Nicobar District

2931. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the

workers of Rubber Plantation at Kachal, Nicobar District against misuse of powers by the Officers of Rubber Board during emergency;

(b) if so, what are the charges and action taken thereon;

(c) whether services of a number of workers were terminated during emergency with fake charges; and

(d) if so, action being taken for their reinstatement?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). The enquiries so far made by the Government reveal that no worker of the rubber plantation at Kachal has been removed from service on fake charges during the emergency. However, services of one worker had been terminated by Rubber Board on 31st May, 1976 on the advice from the Andaman and Nicobar Administration, as the concerned family was not inducted into the island under any scheme of the Government. Another worker was dismissed from service on 19th February, 1977 for rioting and abusing superior officers. This action was taken by the Board after the worker was found guilty after holding a Departmental enquiry. The dismissed worker has submitted an appeal which is under consideration of the Rubber Board.

If any case of victimisation is brought to the notice of the Government it will be enquired into.

Proposal to Open Regional Office of Chief Controller of Imports and Exports at Gwalior

2932. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for opening a Regional Office of the Chief Con-