

Export of Betel Leaves

575. SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the provisional estimate for exporting betel leaves during the next three years, year wise ; and

(b) the details of the action taken to popularise the market of betel leaves in European Economic Community and Middle East countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) Export of betel leaves during 1985-86 were valued at Rs. 61 lakhs as per provisional estimates. Estimates for future export have not been drawn up.

(b) The export potential of betel leaves is limited. Exports are primarily being made to Middle East countries which have sizeable ethnic community which consume this item. The consumption of betel leaves being limited, no specific proposals for increasing its exports are envisaged.

Visit of Nicaraguan President

576. SHRI SOMNATH RATH :

SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the President of Nicaragua visited India in September, 1986 and has discussion on bilateral cooperation ; and

(b) if so, the outcome of the discussion held ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) The discussions covered bilateral relations and international affairs. Three bilateral Agreements were signed during the visit—a Cultural Agreement, a Memorandum of Understanding covering Economic Cooperation and a Credit Agreement.

Amount Spent by Banks on Employees Involved in Union Activities

577. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent by way of salary, travel, phone facility etc. on the employees involved in union activities in each of the nationalised banks in the year 1983-1984 ;

(b) the number of employees 'released' for union activity in the year 1983-1984 in each of the nationalised banks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) A statement indicating the available information received from the nationalised banks is given below.

Statement

Amounts spent by each of the nationalised banks by way of salary, travel phone facility etc. on employees involved in union activities and the number of employees released for union activities, during the year 1983-84

S. No.	Name of the Bank	Amount spent by way of salary, travel, phone facility, etc. on employees involved in activities during the year 1983-1984. (Rs. in lakhs)	(DATA PROVISIONAL)
			Number of employees released for union activities in the year 1983-1984.
1	2	3	4
1.	Central Bank of India	1.19	1
2.	Bank of India	N.A.	Nil

1	2	3	4
3.	Punjab National Bank	Nil	Nil
4.	Bank of Baroda	N.A.	Nil
5.	UCO Bank	1.53	Nil
6.	Canara Bank	N.A.	N.A.
7.	United Bank of India	N.A.	N.A.
8.	Dena Bank	7.80	Nil
9.	Syndicate Bank	1.43	Nil
10.	Union Bank of India	Nil	Nil
11.	Allahabad Bank	0.20	Nil
12.	Indian Bank	0.90	4
13.	Bank of Maharashtra	N.A.	N.A.
14.	Indian Overseas Bank	2.62	9
15.	Andhra Bank	0.80	Nil
16.	Punjab and Sind Bank	Nil	Nil
17.	New Bank of India	0.80	Nil
18.	Vijaya Bank	Nil	Nil
19.	Corporation Bank	0.43	Nil
20.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	0.59	Nil
	Total	18.29	14

N.B. :—Certain banks have informed that special leave was granted to the union activists for attending the negotiating committee meetings and joint talks etc.

Reduction in Rebate Days in Handloom Products

578. SHRI GADADHAR SAHA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether rebate on handloom products is now being allowed for a period of 30 days in a year as against 60 days earlier ; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMRR) : (a) and (b) Under the existing scheme 20% rebate on handloom products is allowed for 30 days in a year plus during Exhibitions organised and

approved by the Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms, as originally conceived. Only during 1983-84 and 1984-85 there was a change in the Policy when 20% rebate was offered for 60 days in a year to be utilised at the discretion of the States for general rebate or for rebate at Exhibitions and in 1985-86 rebate was allowed for 45 days in a year plus National Handloom Expos. The Government have now reverted back to the original scheme as some of the State Governments had represented that the earlier scheme was more equitable, and also because the Sub-Group on Handloom which was set up for the 7th Plan into all aspects relating to the development of the Handloom sector, including the rebate scheme had recommended that this scheme must be phased out,