

representation in accordance with the provisions of the Nationalisation Scheme suitable persons were selected and appointed on the Boards of Directors of the nationalised banks.

Appeal from All India Small Scale Straw Board Mills Association for Excise Relief

625. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All-India Small Scale Straw Board Mills Association has made an appeal to the Government to give excise relief for straw boards made by sun-dry process;

(b) is it a fact that the small Sun-Dry straw board processors are labour-based industry agrico ventures; and

(c) if so, has the Government examined their case and what relief is proposed to be given as against Mill-board manufacturer's with automatic dryers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGRAWAL): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) The matter has been examined and the excise duty on straw board made by sun-dry process assessable under-item 17(2) of the Central Excise Tariff has been reduced to 10 per cent *ad valorem*. Board manufactured with automatic dryers continues to be charge able to duty at the rate of 15 per cent *ad valorem*, on the first 500 metric tonnes 25 per cent *ad valorem* on the next 500 metric tonnes and 30 per cent *ad valorem* on the balance.

- Export of Silver

626. SHRI PARMANAND GOVINDJIWALA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state the quantity of silver exported from India from April, 1977 to January, 1978 month-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG): The quantity of silver exported from India from April, 1977 to January, 1978 is as follows:—

(in M. Tons)	
April 1977	7.50
May 1977	10.80
June 1977	17.22
July 1977	45.32
August 1977	19.52
September 1977	111.90
October 1977	106.30
November 1977	73.95
December 1977	35.77
January 1978	33.15
Total	461.43

Steps to Check Smuggling in Export of Silver

627. SHRI PARMANAND GOVINDJIWALA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether large quantity of silver is being exported from India illegally; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and steps to check smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI

SATISH AGRAWAL): (a) Reports received by the Government do not provide any such indication.

(b) Does not arise.

Master Plans for Tourism by States

628. SHRI S. D. SOMASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of States have prepared Master Plans for Tourism;

(b) if so, the names of such States and the period covered by the Master Plans;

(c) the extent of Central assistance for implementation of such plans; and

(d) whether Government propose to encourage the States which have not prepared such Master Plans so far and give them the necessary financial and technical assistance for formulation and implementation?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTAM KAUSHIK): (a) and (b). So far only 22 States/Union Territories have prepared and forwarded their perspective plans for tourism development. These are: Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Goa, Daman & Diu, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Orissa, Pondicherry, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Mizoram and West Bengal. Others have been reminded.

(c) and (d). Centrally sponsored or grant-in-aid schemes having been abolished in the tourism sector, no Central assistance for tourism development has been extended to the State from the Forth Plan onwards. However, the purpose of requesting the State Governments to prepare perspective plans for tourism development was to encourage planned development of tourist facilities by drawing up a shelf

of schemes which could be implemented over a period of 5 to 10 years. The implementation of these schemes in the Central or State sector, however, be dependent upon funds being made available for the tourist sector in the next Five Year Plan.

Evasion of Excise Duties by Swadeshi Polytex Ltd., Ghaziabad (U.P.)

629. SHRI R. D. RAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Excise authorities have initiated number of cases against the Swadeshi Polytex Limited, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh for its systematic defaults and evasion of excise duties;

(b) whether a very elaborate complaint has also been made by some shareholders of the Company to the Central Government;

(c) if so, the details of both (a) and (b) above; and

(d) what action has been taken in the matter to punish the guilty/miscreants, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGRAWAL): (a) to (d). Government have received complaints alleging large scale evasion of excise duty by M/s. Swadeshi Polytex, Ghaziabad. The necessary investigations are in progress. It is not considered expedient to disclose the details of the cases at this stage.

Joint Venture Projects in Indonesia given to A.S.C. Engineers and Consultants Ltd.

630. SHRI R. D. RAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 5429 dated the 29th July, 1977 regarding sanction for Joint Unit in Indonesia and state:

(a) whether the enquiries as indicated in the reply to Parts (a) and (d) thereof have been completed?