

(b) if so, what are the steps being taken in this regard;

(c) whether Government are also considering to set up a factory for its development,

(d) if so, when the same is likely to be set up, and

(e) what is the place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG): (a) and (b). State Trading Corporation has taken a few steps to promote exports of sports goods. Some of these are:—

(i) Arranging meetings of sports goods suppliers with prospective overseas buyers with the help of State Trading Corporation's foreign offices

(ii) Participation in international tenders where manufacturer exporters are not in a position to participate directly and giving financial assistance where necessary to such suppliers

(iii) Exploring possibilities for inviting technical collaborations and of new markets

(c) There is no such proposal at present before the Government

(d) and (e) Do not arise

Talks with Chief Ministers on Gem Exports

4548 SHRI NIHAR LASKAR

SHRI A. R. BADRINARAYAN

Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state—

(a) whether Union Minister held talks with the Chief Minister on gem exports;

(b) if so, the outcome of the talks held, and

(c) what were the points raised by the Chief Ministers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG): (a) to (c). Commerce Minister had convened a meeting of Chief Ministers on the 5th January, 1979 to discuss the public distribution system and export efforts. Discussions were held about the export potential of States and the efforts being made by State Governments to augment the exports of commodities and products from the States. A mention was made *inter-alia* about the scope for developing the exports of filigree items e.g. silver jewellery etc. from Orissa

Commerce Minister had addressed all State Chief Ministers/LT Governors and Chief Commissioners of Union Territories to advise their officials to prepare a "Position Paper" on the export potential of various commodities and products in their State with specific reference to the support required for increasing exports and removal of difficulties and impediments. These would then be the basis of discussions at the official and Ministerial levels for further action. For purpose of effective follow-up, various groups of States/Union Territories have been specifically assigned to senior officers of the Department of Commerce, who will visit the areas under their charge for on the spot discussion with the State Government officials and organisations on the possibilities of augmenting exports of commodities and products from that area. They will also identify the bottlenecks, if any, and suggest suitable remedial action.

Commerce Minister has had a discussion with the Chief Minister of Rajasthan at Jaipur in November 1978. It was noted that Rajasthan is an important centre for manufacture of jewellery and ornaments of gold and precious stones and this has a large export potential. During discussions it was suggested that rough diamonds should be made available for artisans at Jaipur through Hindustan Diamond

Co. as and when it starts its operations.

Income Tax Assessments of Shri Kanti Desai and his family

4549. SHRI VASANT SATHE:

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR N.
PATIL:

Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) has the Finance Minister seen the report in Blitz Weekly dated 3rd February, 1979 in the Column Bakh-was at Page 8, column 1 & 2 in which there is a mention that the Commissioner of Income Tax, Bombay rejected the application made by Congress (I), M.P. seeking details of income tax assessments of Shri Kanti Desai and his family U/S 138 of the Income Tax Act, 1961; and

(b) will the Finance Minister be pleased to state the circumstances and the reasons why the said details sought by the Hon'ble Member of the Lok Sabha was refused, when he had specifically stated in his application that he wanted it for use in Parliament proceedings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ZULFIQARULLAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Commissioner of Income-tax to whom the application was made was not satisfied that it was in the public interest to furnish the information.

Tyre Manufacturers' Demand for Direct Purchase of Rubber

4550. SHRI P. M. SAYEED:

SHRI R. V. SWAMI-
NATHAN:

SHRI NIHAR LASKAR:

Will the MINISTER OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tyre manufacturers demand for direct purchase of rubber

under letters of authority will be referred to the Inter-Ministerial Committee which has been set up by Government;

(b) if so, whether this Committee will also consider the question of further imports of rubber;

(c) what was the main reason for referring the question to the Committee;

(d) when the Committee is likely to make its recommendations;

(e) what was the tyre manufacturers demand; and

(f) whether they have made complaints for rubber imports through State Trading Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR): GOYAL: (a) to (d). There is no proposal now under consideration of Government to allow direct purchase of rubber by tyre manufacturers from abroad under letter of authority.

(c) The tyre industry have requested for issue of the letters of authority for import of rubber directly to the actual users in the organised sector.

(f) Some complaints were received on the quality of rubber and specification not being upto the mark. After investigation, it was found that a small quantity of about 250 tonnes out of a total of about 15,000 tonnes got damaged by rain water during voyage. Even this quantity, according to expert technical opinion, is unable after drying.

Duty Drawback System

4551. SHRI P. M. SAYEED: Will the MINISTER OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the entire duty drawback system is being reviewed by a