

(v) sponsoring of sales-cum-study teams;

(vi) import of raw wool on OGL for production of quality yarn;

(vii) facility of import of raw wool without payment of duty with suitable export obligation;

(viii) import duty on raw wool has been reduced to 45 per cent from the earlier level of 75 per cent *ad-valorem*;

Increased demand of carpet weavers arising out of growing exports has led to increased wages of carpet weavers

Indian Businessmen Abroad offered to invest in Indian Hotel Industry

7481. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Indian businessmen abroad offered to invest large sums of money in Indian hotel industry; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDU-LAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir, Indian businessmen settled abroad have, occasionally, shown interest in investing in hotels in India. However, no proposal has so far taken concrete shape.

Opening of Kaniska Ashok Hotel

7482. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ITDC's Kaniska Ashok Hotel project is being delayed,

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the expected date of opening the Kaniska Hotel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDU-LAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The delay is mainly due to non-availability of cement and steel in adequate quantities.

(c) Out of the 300 rooms, about 200 rooms are expected to be commissioned by December 1980 and the balance 100 rooms by June 1981.

Import of Revolvers/Pistols by S.T.C. for Sale to Public

7483. SHRI N. E. HORO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details regarding the imported revolvers/pistols by the State Trading Corporation during 1979-80 for sale to the public;

(b) whether this practice is done through arms dealers and collected money in advance from the dealers;

(c) if so, the number of weapons and their brands which were imported giving C.I.F. value of each brand; and

(d) whether all weapons of such type have been distributed without any cut from the number of weapons originally allotted by State Trading Corporation while collecting money in advance from dealers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). The following revolvers/pistols of .32 bore were imported during 1979-80 at favourable import prices:—

Revolvers

1. Arminius	1000 pieces
2. Harrington and Richardson	500 "
3. Smith and Wesson	1000 "

Pistons

1. Llana	400 "
2. Carl Walther	250 "