

(a) whether a much junior Marketing Manager (Insurance) has been promoted in May, 1984 by STC management superseding 55 seniors including seven SC/ST Managers; and

(b) if so, whether his prior permission was taken in this case as required under the Home Ministry orders before superseding seven SC/ST seniors to him?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) : (a) and (b) On the retirement of the previous Chief Insurance Manager (CMM's pay scale) on 30-11-83, the Insurance Manager (in Marketing Manager's pay scale) being the only officer in S.T.C. in MM's pay scale having the requisite insurance background was initially given charge of the Insurance Division and subsequently promoted purely on ad hoc basis as Chief Insurance Manager with effect from 31st May, 1984. He has since retired from the services of the Corporation on 31-7-84 on attaining the age of superannuation. This arrangement was made on purely ad hoc basis in the best interest of the Corporation for a short period of time, and, since it was not a regular promotion, the question of supersession does not arise.

India a Major Tobacco Producing Country

4602. SHRI MOHANLAL PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India is one of the major tobacco producing countries in the world ;

(b) the quantity and quality of tobacco produced in India annually, quality-wise ;

(c) whether there is a great demand of Indian tobacco in foreign countries, if so, the named of the quality which is being exported ;

(d) whether there is a declining trend in regard to the export of tobacco ; and

(e) if so, the main reasons thereof and the steps being taken to solve the problem and boost the export of tobacco in the current year and in coming years.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. India ranks third in tobacco production in the world.

(b) The estimate production of various qualities of tobacco during 1980-81 and 1981-82 was as follows :

QUALITY	(Qty. in million Kgs.)	
	1980-81	1981-82
Flue cured Virginia	117.0	137.7
Bidi tobacco	175.0	190.0
Natu tobacco	43.0	50.0
Chewing tobacco	85.3	85.0
Others	60.5	62.6
TOTAL	480.8	525.3

(c) Yes, Sir. Indian tobacco is exported to about 55 countries. Flue cured virginia tobacco is the major type of tobacco exported.

(d) There has been a marginal decline in the exports of tobacco during the year 1983-84 as compared to the exports during 1982-83.

(e) The main reasons for decline in exports is reduced purchases of

Indian tobacco by U.S.S.R. and China. The following steps were taken are being taken to increase the exports of tobacco :

- (i) Trade delegations were sponsored to far East and North African countries ;
- (ii) Tobacco Board participates in Trade Fairs in different parts of the world.
- (iii) Implementation of technical programmes to improve the quality of tobacco produced.

Proposal to Introduce Price Preference for Government Purchasing

4603. SHRI CHITTUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to reintroduce price preference for Government purchases in favour of public undertakings ; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The policy on price and purchase preference for the public sector enterprises was reintroduced in October, 1980. A statement giving details thereof was laid on the Table of the House in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 486 answered on 19th December 1980.

Seizure of Foreign Fishing Trawlers off the Coast of Kerala

4604. SHRI DAULAT SIVJI JADEJA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Coast Guard has seized numerous foreign charter fishing trawlers off the Coast of Kerala in July, 1984 ;

(b) the full details of the number of foreign charter trawlers, including the date of seizures, etc.

(c) the present status of the seized boats and where they are held presently ;

(d) the names of Indian Companies which have brought them to India ; and

(e) the action being taken against these foreign boats which have Violated regulations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) 8 Taiwanese fishing trawlers chartered by four Indian companies were apprehended by the Coast Guard on 26th July, 1984 off Quilon.

(c) The trawlers are in the custody of the Coast Guard at Bombay.

(d) The following four Indian Companies chartered these 8 fishing trawlers :

1. M/s VBC Exports Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad.
2. M/s G.P. Marine Products India Pvt. Ltd. Guntur.
3. M/s Kanchauganga Sea Foods Pvt. Ltd. Vijayawada.
4. M/s Golden Fisheries Ltd., New Delhi.

(e) The masters of the trawlers were released on bail of Rs. 1 lakh