

(b) if so, the reasons thereof and the policy Government propose to adopt in future?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b). No, Sir. On the other hand during April-September, 1974 the latest period for which statistics are available, exports (including re-exports) were higher by Rs. 444 crores or 41.3 per cent as compared with the same period of last year.

Foreign Exchange Earnings through Sugar Exports

4331. SHRI DINESH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a possibility of earning sizeable quantity of foreign exchange through exports of sugar because of world-wide shortage of this commodity and the rising trend in its prices;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to increase its exports; and

(c) the official estimates of foreign exchange earnings through sugar exports in 1974-75 and 1975-76?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Maximum quantity possible compatible with domestic needs is being made available for exports and the network of S.T.C's foreign offices is being utilised for marketing it.

(c) Foreign exchange earnings from export of sugar are expected to be approximately Rs. 385 crores in 1974-75. As regards 1975-76, foreign exchange earnings from exports of sugar would depend on the availability of sugar for export during that year.

Tourist visiting Ladakh

4332. SHRI KUSHOK BAKULA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state the number of tourists who visited Ladakh after parts of the district were declared open for tourists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): It has been reported by the State Government that 541 foreign tourists visited Leh (Ladakh) between 17th July, 1974 to 22nd November, 1974

Fall in Value of Rupee

4333. SHRI M. S. PURTY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the value of Indian rupee has gone down consequent on the new revisions made in the rates of exchange by the Foreign Trade Bank of Russia; and

(b) if so, the level at which the value of Indian rupee has been during the last three years and the steps taken by the Government of India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): (a) and (b). The value of the Indian rupee vis-a-vis the Rouble remains at Rupees 100-Roubles 12, based on the gold content of the respective currencies. However, since December, 1971 the State Bank of the USSR has periodically revised the exchange rate for non-commercial transactions within the USSR, which is a very insignificant portion of the total transactions. This rate, as on 1-11-1974, was Rs. 100-Roubles 9.44.

The matter is under discussion with the Soviet Authorities.