

**Boosting of exports**

747. **SHRI BIREN ENGTI:**  
**SHRI B. K. DAS-**  
**CHOWDHURY:**

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he met Ministers of Industries of the States in a conference recently;

(b) whether any concrete ideas for boosting export with the active participation of the States emerged; and

(c) whether the State Government of Meghalaya has ever submitted to him any concrete scheme for exporting coal, limestone, tezpatta, betel leaves, potatoes and fresh fruits to Bangladesh where they find their natural outlet on a Government-to-Government basis under the terms of the Indo-Bangladesh Trade Agreement?

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

(b) the discussions were aimed at ensuring greater participation of State Governments in our export efforts.

(c) Exports of fruits and vegetables including potatoes ginger and oranges as also betel nuts and betel leaves have been included in the Balanced Trade and Payments Arrangement between India and Bangladesh at the instance of the State Government of Meghalaya.

**Shillong AIR-Field**

748. **SHRI BIREN ENGTI:**  
**SHRI B. K. DASCHOW-**  
**DHURY:**

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Shillong air-field is now open to air traffic;

(b) whether the air-field is now being used only by a private air corporation; and

(c) the reasons for not putting the Shillong air-field on the Indian Air lines map?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a). The aerodrome at Barapani near Shillong has been opened for operations by Dakota or similar type of aircraft.

(b) M/s. Jamair Company (Private) Limited, Calcutta, were granted permission for operating non-scheduled services to Barapani aerodrome and they started operating through Barapani from September, 1974.

(c) At present only 4000 feet of runway is ready for operation and works are in progress for extending the runway to the length of 6000 feet construction of terminal building etc. The question of Indian Airlines operating to Barapani aerodrome will arise when all developmental works are completed and the aerodrome is fit for operation of turbo-prop aircraft

**Foreign exchange released for travels abroad**

749. **SHRI BIREN ENGTI:**  
**SHRI B. K. DASCHOW-**  
**DHURY:**

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of foreign exchange released in the financial year 1973-74 and during the current year upto the end of September 1974 for travels abroad;

(b) the number of travels officially sponsored and those by private individuals and the amounts of foreign exchange released category-wise; and

(c) whether there was scope for reducing the number of foreign travels and scaling down the amount of foreign exchange?

**THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM):** (a) The amount of foreign exchange released for travel abroad for the financial year 1973-74 and upto the end of August, 1974 is as under:—

1973-74 Rs. 14,56,81,000

April '74 to

August '74 Rs. 8,84,40,000

(Figures for Sept '74 are not readily available).

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid down on the table of the House when available

(c) No, Sir. Foreign travel is permitted only after exercising a strict scrutiny in regard to the purpose and essentiality of the visit.

#### New Cotton Textile Policy

750 **SHRI SHRIKISHAN MODI:**  
**SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA:**

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether new Cotton Textile Policy is under the consideration of Government,

(b) if so, broad features thereof;

(c) what will be its impact on export requirements; and

(d) whether this will involve creation of additional capacity and import of textile machinery?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):**

(a) to (d) The Fifth Plan Licensing policy for the Cotton Textiles Industry is expected to be announced soon. The policy proposals provide *inter alia* for establishing additional spinning capacity in areas which are deficient in yarn supply for the decentralised weaving sector and some additional

weaving capacity required for production of controlled and exportable varieties of cloth. The need for imports of textile machinery will be considered in the context of indigenous availability and delivery time of equipment, as also the requirements of machinery for production of export varieties of cloth

#### Increase in trade between India and E.E.C.

751. **SHRI SHRIKISHAN MODI:**  
**SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA:**  
**SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA:**

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in trade between India and East European Countries from 1970 to 1974;

(b) if so, whether the increase compared favourably with the increase in trade with other countries; and

(c) whether India had recently proposed to other countries for mutual trade in respect of cotton and cotton textiles?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):**

(a) Yes, Sir

(b) India's trade with East European countries has increased by nearly 48 per cent during this period. It is however somewhat less than the increase of trade turnover with other countries during this period

(c) We have bilateral Trade Arrangements covering cotton and cotton textiles with some countries and our general trading in cotton textiles is covered by multilateral arrangements which is in force from January 1, 1974