

national market from alternative raw material, namely, concentrate of poppy straw which has, *inter alia*, resulted in decline in opium exports and accumulation of stocks. Hence, Government do not propose to increase the production of opium.

(e) and (f). There is no such proposal at present.

[English]

Shifting of Jobs by SBI from Calcutta to Bombay

10405. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank of India has shifted various important jobs, e.g. inter branch reconciliation work, traveller cheques, etc. from Calcutta to Bombay which has resulted in the curtailment of employment potentiality as well as the loss of economic importance of West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b). State Bank of India (SBI) has reported that it had transferred certain jobs from Calcutta long back on business and management considerations in the light of the factors and developments obtaining at the material time. SBI has further reported that the bank has no proposal to transfer any other section/item of work from Calcutta.

According to SBI the shifting/transfer of certain sections/items of work from Calcutta has not resulted in any reduction in the bank's employment potentiality in West Bengal.

Re-constitution of Boards of Directors of Nationalised Banks

10406. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to re-constitute the Boards of Directors of the nationalised banks; and

(b) if so, the time by which these Boards are likely to be reconstituted?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b). The Board of Directors of the nationalised banks is a continuing entity and vacancies of directors that arise are filled up from time to time. At present there are certain vacancies of non-official directors on the Boards of all the 20 nationalised banks. It is the endeavour of the Government to fill up these vacancies as early as possible after making a review of earlier appointments.

Incentive to Award Winning Export Firms

10407. SHRI PARASRAMBHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any suggestion has been made by the Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry of India to initiate a scheme to grant special facilities to the award winning export firms so as to provide them sufficient encouragement to increase foreign exchange earnings; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SREFDHARAN): (a) No, Sir.