

[15 May, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

**Removal of Quantitative Restrictions**

5218. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Quantitative Restrictions (QRs) will be completely removed by 1st April, 2001;

(b) whether it is the intention of Government to restrict import of luxury goods like cars, liquor etc; and

(c) whether tariff protection will be enough to control the likely flood of imports?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) After April 1, 2001, it will not be possible to maintain quantitative restrictions on imports of any items. Protection to the domestic industry will be only through tariff which can be raised upto bound levels. Mechanisms like Safeguards can be invoked to control the surge in imports if it causes or threatens to cause serious injury to the domestic industry.

**Growth Centres Functioning in U.P.**

5219. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of growth centres functioning at present in the State of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the number of growth centres proposed to be established in the State during the next three years;

(c) the details of total fund allocated for the aforesaid purpose; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR'. RAMAN): (a) and (b) Under the growth centre scheme, eight growth centres are to be set up in Uttar Pradesh out of which seven have been sanctioned by the Central Government. For the remaining one to be set up in District Pauri-Garhwal, the revised project report is awaited from the State Government. The growth centres at Banthara (district Shahjahanpur) and Satharia (district Jaunpur) have become functional where plot allotment to industries has commenced. The remaining growth centres are at various stages of implementation.