

has notified only the preliminary findings on 17.6.98. No provisional duties have been recommended in the absence of a casual link between dumping and injury to the domestic industry. An oral hearing is scheduled industry on 4th Aug. 1998.

(c) The designated Authority in its preliminary findings has found that the total imports of these goods were 1,91,854 MT in 1996-97 at an average CIF price of US\$ 278 pmt in case of Russia, US\$ 263 pmt in case of Ukraine and US\$ 285 pmt in case of Kazakhstan.

#### **Amendment in Commodity Board Act**

2162. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose amendments to the Commodity Board Act;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether amendments are suggestive to Rubber Board Act;

(d) whether Government are aware of the proposed amendments to reduce the autonomy of the Board and Curtail the interest of rubber growers in Kerala; and

(e) if so, the reasons for the proposal to reduce the authority?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEDGE): (a) to (e) Review of the Commodity Board Acts including the Rubber Act is an on-going process. Amendments are made from time to time to make these Acts more streamlined development-oriented and to ensure that the services beign provied by the Commodity Boards to their respective industries and growers are optimal and are not hindered by the rules, regulations and procedures some of which might have become obsolete with the passage of time and policies of Government.

The review of Acts is not aimed at reducing the autonomy of the Boards or to curtail the interests of the Growers.

#### **Review of India's Trade Policy**

2163. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Secretariat of WTO has prepared a 224 page-long report on India's Trade Policy Review (TPR);

(b) if so, the salient features and findings of the Report; and

(c) what is India's reaction to these findings?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The report contains no specific findings, but is a general overview of India's trade policies seen in the context of its overall economic environment. The report, in its different sections, has dealt with India's overall economic environment, our trade and investment regimes, our trade policy measures affecting imports and exports and trade policies by major sectors.

(c) The Report is a general over view of our trade policy. During the course of the Trade Policy Review Meeting, India answered queries regarding its continuing programme of trade and economic reforms. India also expressed her commitment to a rules-based multilateral trading system, which should become increasingly responsive to the needs of developing countries, like India.

#### **Profits of Tea Companies in Assam**

2164. SHRI DRUPAD BORGHAIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the profits of tea companies in Assam for last three years, year-wise and investment of each company; and

(b) the percentage of profit re-invested for socio-economic development of Assam by each company?

**THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE):** (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Import of Textiles by US

2165. **SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has taken up with United States of America, their restricting import policies on textiles;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reaction of U.S. Government thereto?

**THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE):** (a) No unilateral restrictions have been imposed by United States of America on the import of Indian textiles other than the quantitative restrictions as were mutually agreed upon during the bilateral agreement under the Multi Fibre Arrangements (MFA) which have been continued under the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC) under the World Trade Organisation.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) Does not arise.

#### Export of Granite

2166. **SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the granite industry has sought some incentives to bolster granite exports;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of Government to the granite industry's demand; and

(d) the export of granite during the last two years and the target for the current year?

**THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE):** (a) and (b) Yes, Sir Incentives sought by the Industry to bolster granite exports are listed below:—

(i) Uniform national policy in regard to grant of leases on long-term basis.

(ii) Standardisation of royalty rates and dead rents at par with other industrial minerals.

(iii) Granite mining to be declared as industry.

(iv) Permission to import granite quarrying equipment under Duty Exemption Scheme for Export Oriented Units (EOUs).

(v) Benefit under 80 HHC for granite supplies made to EOUs.

(vi) Reducing limit of Rs. 20 crores for duty-free imports of capital goods under EPCG Scheme.

(c) The demands of the industry have been discussed in a series of inter-ministerial meetings including the State Mines Ministers' Conference organised by the Ministry of Commerce on 13th November, 1997. The meeting of the Granite Development Council was held on 30th June, 1998 for follow-up action on the Resolutions passed during the Conference of 13.11.97.

(d) The export of granite during the last two years and the target for the current year are as follows:—

(Value in Rs. Million)

Year	Value
1996-97	14250.0
1997-98	13000.0
Target 1998-99	16000.0