

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Export Promotion Board will take decisions on all export related issues with the basic objective of enhancing the rate of growth of Indian exports. It would recommend steps to resolve inter-Ministerial differences on policy interpretation and implementation. It would also look into problems relating to infrastructure, non-tariff barriers, export competitiveness, procedures relating to export activity, with a view to recommending new steps for diversifying India's export basket and to enable higher export realization.

The Board would be chaired by the Cabinet Secretary, and would include Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Finance Secretary, Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, Secretary, Ministry of Surface Transport, Secretary, Department of Electronics, Secretary Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Secretary, Department of Revenue and Secretary, Department of Civil Aviation. The EPB would be serviced by the Ministry of Commerce.

(c) Export-Import statistics of grapes for the last three months of the current year are not available. However, according to trade sources, exports of fresh grapes during the current year have exceeded the exports made during the corresponding period of the previous year. Under the current Export-Import Policy, imports of grapes are restricted.

(d) Does not arise.

Discrimination in import duty on U.K. and other European countries against Grapes

667. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:
SHRI MUKESH R. PATEL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is discrimination in import duty of U.K. and other

European countries, whereby Indian grape exporters have to pay 18% import duty, while grape-growers from Chile and Israel have to pay only 3%; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have initiated to remove such discrimination and save the interest of grape-growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) There is no separate country-specific duty regime imposed by the European Union (EU) as the duties are required to be levied on 'Most Favoured Nation' (MFN) basis. However, in derogation of MFN duties, EU grants concessional treatment under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) to various developing countries. India is also one of the beneficiaries. The import duty on Indian grapes has been reduced from 18% to 15% by the EU during the crop season, 1997. Under the EU GSP Scheme, exports from least developed countries and some other countries facing special problems enjoy greater concessions than India.

(b) India has requested European Union for better GSP treatment.

Streamlining the issues hindering promotion of exports

668. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to streamline and sort out issues hindering promotion of exports from the country;

(b) whether this exercise is being done on the basis of general drop in the export targets during the last two years or any special study has been made to evolve a well structured regulatory measure towards achieving higher export targets;

(c) whether any area has been identified where export promotion efforts need a sustained campaign; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA