

(c) whether agriculture sector will be encouraged to reduce trade deficit; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) Based on a broad definition of Industrial products as manufactured products and intermediates for industry, their exports for 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94, 1994-95 & 1995-96 as per DGCI&S data, in US\$ Million are 13709, 14611, 17274, 21085, 24443 respectively. The imports of such products for 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94, 1994-95 & 1995-96 in US\$ Million are placed at 17671, 19345, 19981, 22456, 30860 respectively.

(b) The key to reducing trade deficit lies in accelerated export growth. Export promotion measures are continuously being taken by the Government through policy and promotional schemes. These include simplification of Export-Import Policy procedures, improving efficiency and competitiveness, focussing on quality and technology upgradation and efforts to actively involve the State Government in export promotion.

(c) and (d) It is objective of the Government to maximise foreign exchange earnings from the agricultural sector exports to the benefits of the farmers, exports of items of mass consumption are allowed only after careful consideration of domestic requirement and in such a manner that exports do not compromise the food security of the country.

To boost export of agricultural products steps have been taken such as simplification of inspection procedures, removal of Minimum Export Price and quality restriction on selected items, provisions of concessional credit, product development to meet international needs, extension of benefits available under the scheme of EOUs/EPZs to agriculture sector and permitting 50% sale in the domestic tariff area, assistance to exporters for improved packaging, streng-

thening of quality control, promoting export of identified products through brand promotion campaigns, arranging buyer-seller meets and participation in international fairs/exhibitions.

'Dalit Manifesto' in Common Minimum Programme

3397. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the proposal formulated by Government to implement 'Dalit Manifesto' incorporated in Common Minimum Programme; and

(b) whether there is any time frame drawn for implementation?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) and (b) The Dalit Manifesto has recommended various proposals for the protection and development of SCs/STs which includes, setting up of special courts; appointment of special Public Prosecutor and Special Investigating Officer; establishment of Special Mobile Court in each district for trying cases under the PCR Act on the spot; reservation in education in educational institutions; setting up one residential school each for SCs and STs for boys and girls in every district besides hostel facilities; comprehensive national programme for minor irrigation to cover all irrigated lands held by SCs & STs; distribution of land to landless rural families of SCs & STs through implementation of Land Ceiling Act; Enforcement of Minimum Wages Act; Establishment of a National Authority for total liberation and full rehabilitation of bonded labourers; effective rehabilitation of Safai Karamcharies; reservation for SCs & STs in every sector of employment; enhancing self-employment opportunities for SCs & STs; preservation and restoration of land ownership and possession of STs in tribal areas; setting up a National Development Council for the development of SCs &