

**Government's view: on Global Patenting**

2386. SHRI MOTURU HANU-MANTHA RAO:

SHRIMATI SARALA MAHESHWARI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the Government's views on global patenting plants and seeds;

(b) whether any research unit, Indian or foreign, got permission for the purpose; and

(c) if so, in which part of the country the unit is working?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE):  
(a) The Patents Act 1970 does not permit grant of product patents for plants and seeds in India.

India does not support the establishment of an international regime requiring patenting of plants and seeds.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

**Threat to set up Trade Barriers by Industrial Countries**

2387. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the advanced industrial countries are threatening to set up trade barriers;

(b) if so, whether India is not out-Banking Dunkel by opening its market to foreign multinationals; and

(c) whether this trend is going to be further strengthened in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) A general protectionist trend has been discerned in some industrialized countries.

India is following its policy of liberalization in its own interest, and it is not the intention of government to reverse these policies.

**7th India-Australia Business Council Meeting**

2388. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the potential items for export from India to Australia indicating whether there is any adverse trade balance for India in 1991-92 as compared to 1992-93;

(b) the outcome of discussions sponsored recently at the ASOCHAM, FICCI, 7th India-Australia Joint Business Council meeting held; in February, 1993 in New Delhi; and

(c) what steps have been taken so far by the Central Government for stepping up Australian investment in our country, industrial collaborations particularly in the areas of power generation, mining, minerals food processing, automotive components etc., including participation in Trade Fairs and exhibition by both India and Australia

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) In 1991-92 India had a trade deficit of USD 382 million. In the period April-November, 1992 the trade deficit is USD 410 million against a deficit of USD 264M during the same period in 1991. The major items with export potential

from India to Australia are engineering goods computer software, processed foods, gems & jewellery, sports goods, leather products spices, automotive components.

(b) The 7th India-Australia Joint Council recognised the liberalised environment for foreign investment in India and identified potential areas for Joint Ventures in the areas of mineral exploration and development, agriculture and processed food industries and power generation. It also discussed the potential for increasing exports of non-traditional items from India.

(c) Details of the steps taken to step up investment in India have been outlined in the Statement of Industrial Policy which has been laid on the Table of the House on 24.7.91. As a result of the liberalised policy there has been an increase in the flow of foreign investment from Australia. Approvals for foreign investment from Australia increased from a level of Rs. 0.3 million in 1990 to Rs. 776.2 million in 1992. Major Indian Companies regularly participate in the Australian Government funded exhibitions at the International Trade Development Centre in Australia. India Trade Promotion Organisation also participates in Australia International Engineering Exhibitions along with other major exhibitions held in Australia. Australia participated in Print Pack, 93 organised by ITPC in India.

#### Pending cases of C.C.S. Claims

2389. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Cash Compensatory Sup-

port claims of exporters are pending all over the country and repeated requests for release of funds are not being conceded;

(b) what are the reasons for the increased accumulation of these claims; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to settle the claims expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Sufficient funds have been released to the concerned port offices of D.G.F.T. to clear by the 31st March 1993 the pending CCS claims filed with them by the exporters as on 31-12-92.

#### Total value of trade conducted with Foreign Countries

2390. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total value of trade conducted with foreign countries during the period from April, 1992 to January, 1993; and

(b) what is the value of goods exported and imported separately by Public and Private Sector companies during the said period and what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Total value of exports and imports during the period April-December 1992, the latest period for which such data is available are as follows:

	Rs. Crores	US \$ Million
Exports	37,329	13,075
Imports	47,480	16,631