

(c) In respect of foreign collaboration approval cases, show cause notices have been issued to 89 companies. Replies received from these Companies are under examination.

(d) Advance Licensing Scheme is an important instrument in promoting exports as it helps the exporters in securing imported inputs duty free for manufacture of their export products and thus in becoming more competitive in the International Market. The Scheme has become very popular which is reflected by the upward trend in the receipt of applications for such licences, quantum of export obligations imposed. As already stated the defaults have not been alarming and no chronic abuse of the Scheme has been detected. The Scheme is continuing.

High Duty imposed by Russia on Indian made Foreign Liquor

3308. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that Russia has slapped a discriminatory 60 per cent duty on Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) from India adversely affecting the plans of IMFL exporters, despite India enjoying the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status with Russia;

(b) what is the Import duty imposed on IMFL imported into Russia from Non-MFNs (Non-Most Favoured Nations); and

(c) what is Indian Government's reaction to this discrimination in trade relations followed by Russia ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) The import duty in the Russian Federation consists of basic Customs duty, excise duty and advalorem which is at a uniform rate of 20% of the value of goods inclusive of Customs duty and excise duty. There is no discrimination against Indian goods in Russia. India apart from being one of the Most Favoured Nations (MFNs) also belongs to the category of developing countries as per Russian regulations and hence the basic Customs duty for Indian

goods is half of the duty payable by MFNs. As regards excise duty and advalorem, there are no separate rates for either on the basis of the MFN or non-FMN or developing/developed country status.

(c) Does not arise.

Trade between India and Israel

3309. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the quantum of trade between India and Israel at present; and

(b) what steps have been taken/proposed to be taken by Government to boost Indo-Israel trade in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) During April- November, 1992 India's exports to Israel were Rs. 136.29 crores and India's imports from Israel amounted to Rs. 227.54 crores.

(b) Consequent on the establishment of diplomatic relations with Israel, Government has decided to normalise trade with Israel, subject to prevailing regulations about interaction generally with foreign countries. In pursuance of this decision, inter-action between business enterprises of the two countries has already commenced.

Export of Iron Ore

3310. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details of country-wise export of Iron ore from India during the current financial year;

(b) the target's fixed for the current year and the achievements likely to be made;

(c) what is India's place in the international iron ore market;

(d) whether any steps have been taken to augment the export of iron ore to Japan in view of the likely increase in steel production there; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a)
A Statement is attached. (See below).

(b) A target for export of Iron Ore for 1992-93 was fixed at 31.71 million tonnes and the likely exports are expected to be 28.11 million tonnes.

(c) India was the third largest exporter of Iron Ore in the international iron ore market in 1991.

(d) & (e) Exports of Iron Ore to Japan are being effected under the Long Term Agreement. The annual contracts for 1993-94 for export of Iron Ore to Japan have already been concluded by MMTC and other shippers at the same levels as in 1992-93. No substantial increase in export is contemplated in view of rising domestic demand for iron ore, need to conserve scarce resources of high grade ore and the general policy of encouraging export of value added items rather than raw materials.

Statement

Details of country-wise export of iron ore from India during the current financial year i.e. April '92 to January '93 are as under :

(Qty. Lakh tonnes)

Country	Quantity
Japan	127.91
Korea	34.38
Romania	0.83
Italy	10.46
DPRK	0.49
Australia	1.85
Turkey	3.19
Others	4.88
Total :	223.99

Reduction in Interest Rate on Export Credit

3311. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that E.C.G. Corporation has indicated as per news item published in the Indian Express dated the 4th February, 1993 that it may be compelled to shelve its proposal for the introduction of export facilitating services if the Reserve Bank of India reduces the interest rate on export credit;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Possibly, the Hon'ble Member is seeking information regarding the proposal of Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Ltd., (ECGC) for introduction of Export Factoring services in India. Thfl ECGC have no move now to shelve this proposal.

Tenth Engineering Trade Fair at New Delhi

3312. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that the Tenth Indian Engineering Trade Fair was organised at New Delhi in the recent past;

(b) if so, what are the names of foreign participants with special characteristics of this fair;

(c) whether some joint venture agreements and memoranda of understanding : were signed with foreign companies during ! this fair;

(d) if so, details thereof with special reference to industries in Uttar Pradesh;

(e) whether such fairs will lead to the progress of the country in future; and

(f) if so, in what way and if not, reasons for organising this fair ?