

(d) whether the Indo-US Joint Business Council, made any recommendation in this regard which could be acceptable to Government of India; and

(e) if so, the details thereof V

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (e) In respect of patents in the areas of food, pharmaceuticals and chemicals, India and US have differences on issues such as scope of patentability, duration of patents, pipeline protection for products covered by existing patents in the U.S., and compulsory licensing. These issues are being negotiated in the Uruguay Round as a part of the Agreement on Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs).

The Indo-US Joint Business Council has not made any specific recommendations on these issues, but has suggested that concerted efforts should be made to resolve them taking into account the concerns and aspirations of both sides.

Direction of Trade to Guide Exporters

3848. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any direction of trade envisaged by Government to guide the prospective exporters;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any programme for conducting

(d) if so, whether Government have approached professional staff for carrying out such programmes;

(e) whether Government are aware that the Trade Directories containing names and addresses of foreign importers are not accurate since they contain names of non-existing firms; and

(f) if so, what steps Government have taken to print out Trade Directories with duly verified addresses by the professional staff of the Embassies?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) A weekly publication entitled 'Indian Trade Journal' (ITJ) is published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), Calcutta to guide the prospective exporters.

(b) The ITJ contains the trade prospects of different commodities in individual countries, alongwith the market size for the commodity in each country, India's share of that market and other related information based on monthly reports from Indian Embassies.

(c) and (d) Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, India Trade Promotion Organisation and other such agencies conduct market surveys as and when the necessity is felt.

(e) and (f) DGCI&S, Calcutta publishes a Directory of Indian Exporters which is updated periodically. Due care is taken to verify the accuracy of these particulars. The names and addresses of foreign importers are not published but a list is maintained by DGCI&S and information is provided by them on request. These particulars are also updated periodically.

Export of Sea Food Items

3849. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR YADAV "RAVI" :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the net share of export of sea-food in the country's exports during the year 1992-93 stating the target set for the year 1993-94; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to further increase the export of sea-food items in 1993-94 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

(SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) During the period April-November, 1992 marine products export was US \$ 382.28 million, being 3.3% of the country's exports during this period (Source : DGCI&S). The target for 1993-94 has yet to be fixed.

The following strategies are being adopted to increase the export earnings from marine products :—

- (i) stepping up export production by development of capture fishery;
- (ii) stepping up production by culture fisheries;
 - (a) by increasing per ha. yield from shrimp farms;
 - (b) bringing more area under production of shrimp by culture; and
 - (c) by developing production of other exportable items.
- (iii) induction of new technology and value addition;
- (iv) modernisation of processing facilities, quality upgradation and reduction in waste; and
- (v) aggressive market promotion measures.

Performance of Exports

3850. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state whether it is a fact that our exports would be able to keep up the 9 per cent growth rate, in view of recessions in buying countries ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : As per the current trend, growth in exports in 1992-93 is likely to be less than 9% over those in the previous year.

Fraud in Import of Dal

3851. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that certain Syndicates of Bombay, Pune and Jalgaon imported huge quantities of "VATCHES"

from Australia and passed it off for Masoor Dal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the circumstances under which such an import was allowed;

(d) whether the commodity was imported as Australian Masoor without any duty with export stipulation, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what was the quantity imported and the price per tonne offered therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (e) When the Export and Import Policy, 1992-97 was announced on 31st March, 1992, import of Pulses was freely allowed. However, on receiving a report from the Food and Drug Administration, Government of Maharashtra that under the liberalised Policy, import of toxic pulses may take place, a Notification was issued on 18-1-93 prohibiting the import of toxic pulses.

The customs authorities have been requested to verify if any import of toxic pulses has been effected.

Clearance of Import Licence for Purchase of Aircraft by Punjab Government

3852. SHRI IAGIR SINGH DARD : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the clearance of an import licence for the purchase of second VIP aircraft for Punjab Government is pending with the Central Government;

(b) if so, since when it is pending;

(c) the reasons for the delay; and

(d) by when the final clearance is likely to be accorded ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) A proposal for import of One No. Beech King Air B-200 aircraft for a cif value of 3762588 US \$ for the use of VIPs, has been received from the Government of Punjab.

(c) and (d) Import could not be allowed because of foreign exchange constraints. However, the proposal will be considered in the next financial year 1993-94.