

Estimate of Export-Import Trade

*166. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the estimate of export-import trade during the current as well as during the next two years in rupee and dollar currencies ;

(b) whether it will be possible for India to have surplus foreign trade in the near future ; and

(c) whether our foreign trade would increase in terms of percentage with developing countries in our overall foreign trade ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) An export target of US \$ 22138 million (Rs. 70842 crores) has been fixed for the current year 1993-94 representing an increase of about 20% (32% in rupee terms) over the actual exports during 1992-93. The export targets for the years 1994-95 and 1995-96 have not been fixed. Imports are made as per requirements and no targets are set.

(b) During the period April-January 1993-94 trade deficit has come down to US \$ 582 million (Rs. 1824 crores) as compared to US \$ 3596 million (Rs. 10284 crores) in the corresponding period of the last year. If this trend continues there is likelihood of our achieving a viable balance of trade.

(c) It is our endeavour to increase and diversify foreign trade, including that with developing countries.

Strength of Employment Exchanges in the Country

*167. VIRENDRA KATARIA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) what is the strength of employment exchanges in the country as on date;

(b) whether the number is sufficient to cater to the need of the unemployed persons who have not registered their names ;

(c) whether there is any proposal to revamp the network in the near future;

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) to (d) According to the available information, as on date there are 887 employment exchanges in the country which are functioning under the administrative and financial control of the respective State Governments/Union Territories. The jurisdiction of each of the existing exchange has been defined so as to cover the entire country except the State of Sikkim where no employment exchange is functioning. The Central Government is not aware of any demand from any individual/society for setting up of more employment exchanges.

The State Governments/UT Administrations keep the functioning of employment exchanges under review for improving efficiency.

Trade with Pakistan

*68. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY :

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the commodities that are being exported to Pakistan;

(b) the commodities which are imported from Pakistan ;

(c) whether recent increase in tension between the two countries has adversely affected our trade with Pakistan ;

(d) what steps are being taken to boost our trade with Pakistan; and

(e) what is India's policy with respect to trade with Pakistan ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) The principal commodities exported/being exported to Pakistan including Iron Ore, Tea, Spices, Oil meals, Cement etc.

The principal commodities imported from Pakistan into India include fruits & nuts, oil seeds, wool raw, metaliferrous ores, metal scraps etc.

(c) The trend of our exports to Pakistan during the recent months shows that our exports to Pakistan are going up.

(d) In the Second and Third Meeting of the Sub-Commission on Trade of Indo-Pakistan Joint Commission held in August, 1987 and July, 1989 respectively, India reiterated that Most Favoured Nation (MFN) treatment should be accorded to Indian exporters by Pakistan in accordance with their obligations under GATT in order to facilitate free competition with other countries in items being imported by Pakistan. Further, India offered to send delegations to Pakistan in the field of tea and textile machinery/components. It also suggested co-operation in the field of automotive components. Substantial quantities of cement have recently been exported to Pakistan.

(e) India has been according MFN treatment in respect of trade with Pakistan continuously since 1976.

Chapter on Cooperation in the Eighth Five Year Plan

169. **SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK :** Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a chapter on cooperation was proposed to be adopted in the Eighth Five Year Plan ;

(b) if so, what is the progress made in this regard ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) to (c) In

view of the important role of cooperatives in economic development in general and in agriculture sector in particular, substantial sections have been incorporated on Cooperation in the Chapter on "Agriculture & Allied Activities" of Volume II of the Eighth Five Year Plan Document.

Export of Marine Products

*170. **SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA :** Will the the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that through the value of export of Indian marine products has rise considerably, India accounts for only around 1.7 per cent of the global sea food market ;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor ; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take take encourage the growth of product industry ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir. Our share in the global market for marine products is less than 2%.

(b) The production from capture sources has remained more or less static while the consumption of fishery products both within the country and outside has been increasing rapidly.

(c) Marine products have been identified as a thrust area for export promotion. Among the marine products exported shrimp is the dominant item. In order to augment the production of shrimp, aquaculture has been identified as an extreme focus area. Deep sea fishing, especially for diversified resources like tuna is also being developed to enhance the export potential. Export of IQF shrimp and other value added products are encouraged for realising more foreign exchange. Various schemes are being implemented by Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) in these 3 thrust areas identified for stepping up exports of marine products i.e., deep sea fishing, aquaculture and production of value added marine products.