

and trained manpower but also on various other factors. However since the announcement of the policy for integrated development of software for domestic and export market by Department of Electronics, a number of steps have been taken to boost export eg., income-tax exemption on earnings from software export under section 80 HHE, establishment of Software Technology Parks on the lines of 100 per cent Export Oriented Units and gradually providing facilities for High Speed Data Communication for software export through Satellite.

(d) There is no special move by the Government to explore new market in Germany. However, Government is encouraging software exporters to step up exports in all new markets including Germany

(e) There is a good potential of export of software from India. Government is taking a number of steps to boost software export which includes, organising participation of Indian software industries in International fairs, undertaking market survey, encouraging foreign collaboration, policy changes from time to time to suite the software exporters etc.

Negative list of import of drugs

4188. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the negative list of import of drugs has been, made at the instance of the Department of Chemicals;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Department of Chemicals had forwarded this list only to protect Public Sector Units under its control; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE; DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes. Sir. The list of drugs included in

the Negative List of Imports of the Export and Import Policy, 1992—97 was prepared on the basis of recommendations by the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals. These recommendations were based on various factors like availability of indigenous capacities, their sensitivity to imports due to cheaper rate of imported drugs, basic stage indigenous production involving huge investments etc.

(b) No. Sir.

(v) Does not arise.

Strike in MITCO Factories in Girdih

4189. SHRI A. NALLASIVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that there was total strike in the MITCO Factories at Giridih (Bihar) on 16th June, 1992 and it remaining under lock:

(b) whether he is also aware that the payment of that day is being realised by manipulating the register by the staff and the officers recording their attendance next day for that day, with particular reference to the factory No. 4; and

(c) if so, what action is proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) There was no strike in MITCO's 'factories at Giridih on 16th June, 1992.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Lack of export order for Andhra Pradesh Tobacco Growers Cooperative Society, Ongole

4190. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVA-JI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that Andhra Pradesh Tobacco Growers Co-operative Society, Ongole is holding stocks for want of export order as well as bidders from the domestic cigarette manufacturers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the presence of this society on the auction platforms, helped to stabilise the market; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to liquidate the stocks?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) According to the returns submitted to the Tobacco Board by the Andhra Pradesh Tobacco Growers Cooperative Union, Ongole, as on 30.6.92 they were holding stocks of 837.65 tonnes of tobacco purchased from 1992 auctions, and they had not sold any stock during the period *January-June, 1992*.

(b) and (e) Auction prices are dependent upon demand and supply. The purchases made by the Union were small in quantity in comparison to the overall auctions of 132.75 million kg. However, the limited quantities purchased by the Union would have helped to stabilise prices to a marginal extent. The interest of the Union for selling their tobacco has been conveyed to the Russian authorities.

Commitment of English merchants to purchase FCV tobacco

4191. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVA-JI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the commitment of English merchants to purchase FCV tobacco during current year;

(b) the quantity of tobacco actually contracted and what is the quantity shipped, so far; and

(c) what steps have been taken to ensure that such commitment is fulfilled?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) The U.K. merchants had given a collective estimate of export requirements of 63,000 tonnes in Green Weight (packed weight 44,000 tonnes).

(b) According to the contracts filed with the Tobacco Board, the contracted quantity is amounting to 16,500 tonnes (green weight 23500 tonnes). Against the above contracted quantities, shipment of 16,600 tonnes (15,200 tonnes green weight) has been completed.

(c) The Tobacco Board convened a meeting of the overseas merchants and requested them to import tobacco as per the estimates of requirements given by them.

India's Trade Deficit

4192. SHRI KRISHNA KUMARI BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that the despite trade reforms and liberalisation, country's trade deficit has risen substantially;

(b) if so, what is the trade deficit in terms of dollars during April-May 1992 as against the corresponding period in 1990-91, India's exports in dollars terms during April-May, 1992 and India's imports in dollars during April-May 1992 as compared to imports in April-May 1991;

(c) what are the major items of exports which have declined stating the reasons therefor; and

(d) the manner in which Government propose to bridge the trade deficit?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) India's trade deficit in 1991-92 was dollar 1.55 billion as against 5.9 billion in 1990-91. This was the lowest deficit recorded in the last decade.

According to the provisional estimates, India's trade deficit amounted to US dollars 945 million during April-May, 1992, as compared to US dollar 643 million during the corresponding period of April-May 1990. India's exports amounted to US dollar 2667 million during April-May