

(c) The Government introduced a package of trade policy reforms aimed at strengthening of export incentives, eliminating substantial volume of import licensing and optimal import compression, REP licenses have been replaced by a new instrument named Exim Scrips. These will be the means of obtaining access to certain categories of import of raw materials, components and spares. The system of advance licensing as an instrument of export promotion has also been strengthened. Government have decided to allow established exporters to open foreign currency accounts in approved banks and allow established exporters to raise external credits, pay for export related imports from such accounts and credit export proceeds to such accounts. Besides, Government have taken other steps which include reducing controls through licensing, simplification of procedures for export, activation of Board of Trade, bilateral discussion with selected countries, inter-action with national organisations of trade and industry, etc.

767. [Transferred to the 11th March, 1992.]

Trade in rupee convertibility with Soviet Union

768. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether arrangements are being worked out for continuing trade with republics of Soviet which formed part of erstwhile USSR;

(b) which republics have agreed to honour erstwhile Soviet Union's commitment to accept payment in Rupees for India's purchases in fields of defence, power, coal and steel;

(c) what is being done to resolve vexed issue of Rupee Rouble parity and liquidation of technical credit; and

(d) whether Government are prepared for trading in convertible currency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Russian Federation and Ukraine have agreed, in principle, IP the continuance of rupee payment for purchases made in these sectors.

(c) These financial issues are done for further discussion between Russia and India shortly.

(d) The new trading arrangements would permit trade in convertible currencies also, besides trade in rupees, barter, counter trade and the like.

SC/ST Post lying vacant under various Undertakings, Boards under the Ministry of Commerce

769. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI;

KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of posts reserved for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes that are lying vacant in various public sector undertakings, Boards and other institutes under the administrative control of his Ministry;

(b) the time when these have been lying vacant; and

(c) what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken by Government to fill up these vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and the same will be laid on the Table of the House.

Export of protective foods

770. PROF. I. G. SANADI:

SHRI PRABHAKAR B. KORE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been promoting; exports of various foods such

as protective foods like fruits, vegetables, fish and animal feeds which, are needed at home for the weaker sections;

(b) what was the value of exports of protective foods and animal feeds in 1960, 1970, 1980 and 1990;

(c) whether Government have also been importing pulses, vegetables oils and milk products, gifted or commercial;

(d) if so, what are the figures and value thereof as at (b) above;

(e) whether Government have any plans to review the position keeping in

view the nutritional and food security of the vulnerable group specially women and children; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a)

Yes, Sir, to the extent surpluses are available.

(b) The exports of these items were as under:—

Commodity	1960-61	1970-71	1980-81	1989-90
Fruits & vegetables and pulses	6	12	80	208
Fish & Fish preparations	5	31	217	687
Oil cakes	14	55	125	546

(c) and (d) The value of imports of such food items for the various periods is indicated below:—

(Value Rs. Crores)

1960-61	1970-71	1980-81	1986-87
33	29	280	592

Separate break-up of pulses, milk products, etc. is not available.

(e) and (f) Such considerations are always kept in view while deciding our exports and imports of food items. Exports are allowed only to the extent of surpluses available.

Visit of German delegations to India

771. KUMARI CHANDRIKA

PREMI KENIA:

SHRI JAGADISH JANI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether two separate delegations from Germany visited India recently to

explore further joint industrial and commercial cooperation between the two countries;

(b) if so, in which fields the two delegations have shown their interest in realising new joint cooperation projects; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof including the location of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Two delegations from Germany visited India in the month of February 1992. At their interaction with various Indian Industry Associations and others concerned, the possibilities for joint collaborations and setting up of production base for exports to third countries were explored. In addition the scope for future cooperation in sectors such as Power, Transport, Telecommunications, Computer Software, Road Construction, Port Development, Mechanical Engineering and Chemicals came up for discussion.