

imports during April-January 1991-92 amounted to US \$ 15929 million, as compared to US \$ 20249 million during April-January 1990-91, thereby indicating an import compression of about 21% or by US \$ 4320 million.

(c) and (d) The export growth is constrained by several global as well as domestic factors. The global factors include deceleration in volume of world trade from 7.3 per cent in 1989 to 4.2 per cent in 1990 and further to 0.9 per cent in 1991, recessionary conditions in some major industrial economies, political and economic upheavals in East Europe, etc. The domestic factors include deceleration in industrial production as also severe import curbs and the tight monetary policy pursued to overcome the critical Balance of Payments situation. It is difficult to pinpoint the extent to which import curbs alone have adversely affected the exports, as exports are influenced by such varied factors as mentioned above.

Export of Tea to Erstwhile U.S.S.R, and East European Countries

3378. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of tea exported to the erstwhile USSR during the last five years together with the amount of foreign exchange earned from this export;

(b) whether tea was exported to any East European countries during the last five years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The volume of tea exported to the erstwhile USSR together with the amount of export

Estimated.

earnings during the last five years is given below:

year	Qty(M.Kgs)	Export Earnings (Rs. in Crores)
1987	95.0	292.03
1988	80.2	228.00
1989	115.7	473.28
1990	128.6	670.72
1991*	104.5	546.85

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Total exports of tea to East European countries other than erstwhile USSR during the last five years are as follows:—

(Quantity in Million Kgs.)

	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991*
Poland	10.70	9.91	5.69	6.68	11.93
Czecho-slovakia	1.26	1.41	0.71	0.97	0.84
Erstwhile East					
Germany	0.14	0.65	0.32	0.06	—
Hungary	0.20	0.67	0.42	0.23	0.14
Romania	1.75	—	—	—	—
Yugoslavia	1.45	2.08	1.45	2.06	0.16

India's Annual Trade Agreement with Foreign Countries

3379. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the foreign countries with which India has finalised Annual Trade Agreements during the year 1992-93, so far, as compared to 1991-92;

(b) whether modalities of trade with such countries have so far been finalised;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) The Trade Agreements are signed on long term basis and on the basis of these

Agreements Annual Trade Protocols are signed on the calendar year basis. However, during 1991-92, Trade Agreements with the new Republics of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan have been signed. Trade Protocols for 1992 have also been concluded with Czechoslovakia, Romania, Uzbekistan, China and Russia. The new Agreement/Protocols signed provide for trade in non-convertible Indian Rupees on a balanced basis while also permitting transactions by way of counter trade, barter payments in freely convertible currency or any other-internationally recognised form of business co-operation.

Dunkel's Draft Proposals

3380. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a seminar in Delhi on Sunday the 12th January, 1992 he criticised the Dunkel's draft proposals relating GATT, saying that the draft was discriminatory and detrimental to India's interests; and

(b) if so, in what precise aspects of the Dunkel's proposals were considered discriminatory and detrimental to India's interests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) In a seminar organised by the Indian Chapter of the union inter-nationale des Advocats on 12 January 1992, the Minister of State for Commerce made the following statement on the Uruguay Round issues.

"The world has been less than fair to India. Take agriculture. In agriculture, from the very beginning, the central issue has been the extent of reform that should be accomplished in trade and production policies in agriculture. The US and the Cairns Group wanted elimination of all subsidies and protective barriers in agriculture. While the European Community, Japan and a number of European countries were prepared to reduce subsidies and protection, they found the objective of elimination politically infeasible. The differences persisted. India was not one of the main

protagonists. But we encouraged the developed countries to bring down the levels of protection and subsidy more rather than less. In this debate, the crucial issue that is forgotten is the fundamental distinction between subsidy in a developed country and in developing countries. In a developed country like the US or Canada or Australia, the subsidy is to perpetuate over-production and dump the excess production on other countries, failing which into the sea. In developing countries, the subsidy is to ensure food security for our people, self-sufficiency and to protect rural employment. So, when GATT says 'reduce subsidies', that rule, if it is applied in a procrustean manner, will be discriminatory rather than non-discriminatory. I will give you one more example. Take the issue of patents. The patent system the world over represents a balance between the object of rewarding the innovator by granting him a monopoly for a limited time period for exploiting the invention and the objective of protecting the consumer against a possible abuse of the monopoly. How do you strike the balance? Can you strike the balance at the same level in a developed country and in a developing country? And what will happen if you strike such a balance? To-day, no more than 30 per cent of India's population has access to modern health-care, modern medicines. India's prices of medicine are among the lowest in the world. If a patent regime as envisaged by the US and other countries and as adumbrated in the Dunkel Package is accepted without qualification, it is inevitable that prices of drugs in India will go up five times or ten times. What does that mean? It means that even among the 30 per cent today who have access to the modern medical care, perhaps one half will be driven out of the cover and no more than ten per cent of the people of this country would have access to modern medical care and modern medicines. Our plea, therefore, in Geneva has been that you cannot apply these rules without exceptions. When Japan says, "You cannot apply tariffication without exception; I have to have farmlands in my country. Otherwise my children will grow up without knowing what a farm is, what agriculture is, the West must understand Japan's