

(b) whether the tobacco farmers of Andhra Pradesh have made an earnest appeal to raise the issue at the meet; and

(c) if so, the details of the decision taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI) : (a) to (c) An appeal was published in various national newspapers on November 2, 2001 on behalf of the tobacco growers of Andhra Pradesh, seeking intervention at the highest level during the State visit of Prime Minister to the Russian Federation on November 4-7, 2001. The appeal spoke of distress caused to tobacco farmers by the decline in export of Indian tobacco to Russia. In response to this appeal, the need to ensure that Indian exports to Russia of traditional commodities like tobacco do not suffer because of lack of rupee repayment funds was mentioned at meetings with the Russian side during this visit. It was felt that the Inter Governmental Commission for Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation shall look into this issue more closely.

Promotion of Border Trade

2297. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the finalized routes of the Trans-Asian Railways and the Trans-Asian Highway networks indicating its stage of implementation and exact location through the North-East;

(b) the details of infrastructure development plan proposed and being executed along the North-East boundaries of India indicating location-wise plan, allocation, executing agency, progress made and target set for each project; and

(c) the details of proposals being studied or programmes being executed through IIFT and other agencies for promotion of Border Trade and market development in NER ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI) : (a) The route is not yet finalised.

(b) The details are as follows :

(Amount in Cr.)			
Project	Executing Agency	Year of Sanction	Total Cost
1	2	3	4
(i) Trade Center at Sutarkhandi, Assam	Government of Assam	1999-2000	8.16

1	2	3	4
(ii) Development of Surma Trunk Road from Karimganj Town to Sutarkhandi, Assam	Government of Assam/Border Road Organisation	1998-99	11.00
(iii) Trade Center at Manakachar, Assam	Government of Assam	2000-01	4.26
(iv) Widening and strengthening of Hallidayganj Manakachar Road, Assam	Government of Assam	2001-02	6.84
(v) Weighbridge at Moreh, Manipur	Government of Manipur	1999-2000	0.16
(vi) Integrated Development of Border Town of Moreh, Manipur	Government of Manipur	1999-2000	0.95
(vii) Weighbridge at Dawki Land Custom Station, Meghalaya	Government of Meghalaya	1999-2000	0.16
(viii) Construction of a composite building at Zokhwathar, Mizoram	Government of Mizoram/Border Road Organisation	1997-98	2.00
(ix) Infrastructure Development Demagiri, Mizoram	Government of Mizoram	2000-01	2.48
(x) Integrated Development at Agartala, Tripura	Government of Tripura	2000-01	2.97
(xi) Improvement of road from fire-station, Chaumuhani to Akhura, Tripura	Government of Tripura	1998-99	0.82
(xii) Weighbridge at Akhura and Raghna, Land Custom Station, Tripura	Government of Tripura	1998-99	0.27
(xiii) Development of Infrastructure, old Raghana Bazar, Tripura	Government of Tripura	1999-2000	11.20
(xiv) Weighbridge at Mahurighat, Srimantpur and Manughat, Tripura	Government of Tripura	1999-2000	0.47
(xv) Road from Satmura Chaumuhani to Muhurighat, Tripura	Government of Tripura	2000-01	2.09
(xvi) Development of market at Gol Chakkar, Agartala, Tripura	Government of Tripura	2001-02	94.00

(c) The details of proposals being studied or programmes being executed through Indian Institute of Foreign Trade and other agencies are as follows :

- (i) The institute is currently engaged on a project on Export potential of Tripura which is financed under the Export Development Fund scheme.
- (ii) The institute has provided consultancy support to the Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship, Guwahati to conduct a study on prospects of Border Trade with Myanmar and Bangladesh Preinvestment Feasibility Study which was funded by NEDFI. The report was submitted in August, 2001.
- (iii) In the field of Human Resource Development, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade in association with the Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship, Guwahati has conducted a 12-week Certificate Course during August-November, 2001 at Guwahati where 27 Government officials/private sector entrepreneur had participated. The project was supported by Ministry of Commerce, Government of India and the North Eastern Council. On the basis of the positive feed-back for this programme, proposals are being submitted to the concerned authorities for continuation of this programme in 2002-2003.
- (iv) Study and recommending recommendations for appropriate border policy measures for promoting trade with neighbouring countries in North Eastern Region has been assigned to Assam Industrial Development Corporation (AIDC).
- (v) Study of the locational matrix of exportable commodities in North Eastern Region has been assigned to North Eastern Industrial Consultants Limited (NECON).

Impact of import from Nepal on domestic industry

2298. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that industrial sectors including vanaspati, copper winding wire, acrylic yarn, zinc oxide and pipelines are facing adverse impact due to relatively cheaper imports of these items from Nepal enjoying duty differentials as well as advantage of limits of value addition;