

(c) and (d) The Government of India is working closely with Export Promotion Councils and other Apex Organizations to promote exports to the USA.

Trade treaties with neighbouring countries

165. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to review the trade treaties with neighbouring countries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of steps taken so far or proposed to be taken to improve trade relation with neighbouring countries?

THE **MINISTER** OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) The Government of India in the Department of Commerce has proposals to review the Trade Treaties/Trade Agreements with Nepal and Bangladesh. The India-Nepal Treaty of Trade due for renewal of December 5, 2001, is under review so as to provide for safeguards to protect Indian industry. The India-Bangladesh Trade Agreement was also due for renewal from October 4, 2001. Bangladesh has proposed extension of its terms for 6 months from October 4, 2001.

(c) The Government of India has taken various steps to improve trade relations with all neighbouring countries, which include participation in trade fairs & exhibitions, exchange of trade delegations, holding of JBC meetings, exchange of commercial information apart from improvement in infrastructure and technology etc.

The bilateral trade between India and Myanmar is reviewed regularly through national and sectoral meetings being held under the aegis of Ministry of Home Affairs.

Import of agricultural products

† 166. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the import of agricultural commodities is permissible under Open General Licence;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.