

[20 November, 2001]

RAJYASABHA

Steel import curbs by US

163. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "US panel paves way for steel import curbs" which appeared in The Business Standard, dated the 24th October, 2001;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the remedial steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) Government is aware of the ongoing safeguard investigations being conducted by US authorities on imports of broad range of steel products. On behalf of the Government of India a pre-hearing brief on remedy *inter alia* containing certain suggestions including recommendation of a country specific quota for India has been submitted to the concerned US authorities. While the US authorities have found injury to the domestic steel industry in respect of certain products, no reasons for the injury decision have been given. Government of India awaits the final report which is expected sometime in December this year.

Impact of terrorist strikes on exports to USA

164. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the terrorist strikes in USA and military retaliation have affected the Indian exports to USA largely;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have chalked out plans to boost exports to USA; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Indian exports to USA have declined. There is a perception that the terrorist strikes in USA and military retaliation could depress US economy thereby causing decline in Indian exports to USA.