

Indians living in Hong Kong

325. SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what shall be the identity and status of Indians living in Hong Kong after its transfer to China;

(b) what measures Government have taken or propose to take in this regard; and

(c) what is the number of Indians living in Hong Kong at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) The status and identity of persons holding Indian passports and living in Hong Kong, is not expected to undergo any change after China resumes sovereignty over Hong Kong on 1-7-1997. The people of Indian origin in Hong Kong, who hold British Dependent Territory Citizenship, shall cease to be BDTCs with effect from 1-7-1997, but will be entitled to hold "British National (Overseas)" Passports which however will not entitle them to the right of abode in the United Kingdom.

(b) The Government of India are of the view that the BDTCs of Indian origin are the responsibility of the U.K. Government and that the British authorities should take necessary steps to ensure that they are not rendered Stateless. The Government of India are in touch with the U.K. Government on this matter and will continue to urge the U.K. Government to ensure this.

(c) There are approximately 15,000 Indian passport holders living in Hong Kong and additionally approximately 4,500 people of Indian origin who are BDTCs.

Reduction of number of pay scales by the Fourth Central Pay Commission

326. SHRI P. N. SUKUL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) which categories of Government employees are not going to be benefited by 724 RS—6

the proposed reduction in the number of the existing pay scale to 36 only, as recommended by the Fourth Central Pay Commission; and

(b) how Government propose to extend the benefit to such categories of employees too?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) and (b) An Empowered Committee of Secretaries with Finance Secretary as Chairman has been constituted to consider and process the recommendations of the Pay Commission. Besides, an Implementation Cell headed by an Additional Secretary has been set up in the Ministry of Finance to examine and process the recommendations of the Pay Commission. A Cell has also been set-up in the Department of Personnel & Training for the same purpose.

The detailed examination of the Report by the Empowered Committee/Implementation Cell is being taken up. It is, therefore, premature at this stage to indicate if there are categories of Central Government employees who may not be benefited by the proposed reduction in the number of existing pay scales to 36 only as recommended by the Fourth Central Pay Commission.

Demand for formation of a Central Banking Authority

327. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that All India Bank Employees' Association (AIBEA) has demanded formation of a Central Banking Authority, which will seek to regulate, monitor overseas and bear the sole responsibility of meeting the socio-economic tasks of banking in defined areas; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) It

is understood that All India Bank Employees' Association (AIBEA) has circulated a Booklet containing some proposal including a suggestion for formation Central Banking Authority. No concrete proposals are under consideration. However, suggestions received from all sources, including AIBEA, are examined and decision taken on merits.

Trade with Japan and EEC countries

328. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has suffered a heavy deficit in trade with Japan and the Common Market countries during the year 1985-86 and that Japan and the Common Market countries have turned down Indian request for lowering the tariff on export to those countries; and

(b) if so, in what manner India propose to meet this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) According to the latest available provisional data, the position of India's balance of trade with ECM and Japan during April-December, 1985 as well as April.—December, 1984 is as under:—

India's Balance of Trade During April-December.

	Value : Rs. Crores	
	1984(P)	1985(P)
ECM (-)	1500.05	(-) 2018.70
Japan (-)	32.01	(-) 293.23

(P) Provisional and subject to revision.

There are not only tariff but other barriers to our exports to EEC and Japan. In so far as tariff is concerned we have been requesting both EEC and Japan for removal or reduction of duties on products of export interest to us. In recent years, including in

the Tokya Round negotiation in GATT we have been able to secure removal/reduction of duties on items such as tea, 'cashewnuts, certain spices, unmanufactured tobacco, mangoes, shrimps and prawns etc. from EEC, and on items such as shrimps and prawns, mangoes, tea, cashewnuts, carpets, certain textile products etc. from Japan. In regard to a number of products the tariff concessions granted in the past have been under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP), and often the duty has not been reduced to zero. We have been pursuing with these countries complete removal of duties where tariff reduction is not complete (e.g. shrimps and prawns, walnuts, castor oil, certain tropical fruits, unmanufactured tobacco, granite etc. in respect of EEC and shrimps and prawns, shellac, tea, certain tropical fruits, carpets, certain textiles products etc. in respect of Japan) The significance of tariff concessions given under GSP is considerably reduced on account of quantitative restrictions <w large number of products.

Pak-trained terrorists in Punjab

329. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent revelation made by the Chief Minister of Punjab that about 200 Pak-trained hardcore terrorists have been apprehended during the past two months alone as reported in the Hindustan Times of the 9th July, 1986;

I whether Pakistan Government has denied this fact;

(c) whether Government of India have taken up this matter with the Government of Pakistan; and

(d) if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.