

(a) whether Government have received reports of theft and removal of articles from *iKe* luggages being kept in the godown of Trivandrum airport;

(b) whether it is a fact that these thefts are taking place in connivance with the Customs officials posted at the airport; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken for the safety of the luggages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Export of cotton by STC

919. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR;

SHRI SHRIDHAR WASUDEO DHABE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total volume of cotton exported by the State Trading Corporation from the 1st April to the 31st Decemebr, 1983;

(b)' at what price and to which countries the cotton was exported; and

(c) what steps Government have taken for the promotion of export of cotton to various countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) fro cotton was exported by the State Trading Corporation from 1st April to 31st December, 1983.

(b) Does not arise

(c) Export of cotton is decided by the Government from time to time *fter taking into account the demand

and supply position in the country and - price trends. No export duty is (levied on export of long staple cotton.

Trade with West Germany

920. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU,- Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that the trade between India and West Germany has declined during the year 1983;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to increase the trade with West Germany?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) No, Sir. The provisional figures for April-Sept. 1982 and April-September 1983 are given below:—

(Rupees in Crores)			
	Exports	Imports	Total Trade
1982-83 (April-Sept.)	156.82	355.32	512.14
1983-84 (April-Sept.)	174.23	449.26	623.49

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Trade promotion measures including marketing efforts and exchange of business delegations have been maintained and intensified.

Export of Iron ore to Japan

921. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU; Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have recently concluded any agreement with Japan for the export of iron ore to that country;