

Backlog Reserved Vacancies

2327. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the total backlog of reserved vacancies in different cadres' posts in his Ministry;
- (b) the total number of posts filled up during the last five years and till date; and
- (c) the time by which the above vacant posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Increase in Import and Exports due to Removal of Restrictions

2328. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the steps towards globalization and removal of import restrictions on various items including raw material and consumer goods, has affected the local manufacturing units;
- (b) if so, what steps are being taken to protect them;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that imports *vis-a-vis* exports are steadily increasing due to the removal of restriction; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) India has been following a consistent policy for gradual removal of restrictions on imports since 1991. Apprehensions have been expressed regarding the likely adverse impact of this removal on domestic producers.

However, Government is absolutely determined to ensure

[17 August, 2000]

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through appropriate use of tariff mechanism that imports do not cause any serious detriment or injury to the domestic industry. Towards that end, Government has increased duties on a number of items where a surge in imports was noticed or apprehended, for example, the duties on arecanut has been raised to 100%, on poultry to 100%, on wheat to 50%, on skimmed milk powder to 60%, on apple to 50% on edible oils to 35% and on rice to 80%. Government has also constituted an Inter-Ministerial Group to study the impact of removal of Quantitative Restriction. Besides a Group of Ministers have been *entrusted* with the task of suggesting ways and means for empowering the SSI below:

(c) and (d) The comparative data relating to imports and exports for the period 1993-94 to 1999-2000 are given in the Statement below:

(Value in Rs. Crores)

Year	Export Incl. Re- exports	Imports	Rate of growth of Exports	Rate of growth of Imports%
1993-94	69751	73101	29.9	15.3
1994-95	82674	89971	18.5	23.1
1995-96	106353	122678	28.6	36.4
1996-97	118817	138920	11.7	13.2
1997-98	130101	154176	9.5	11.0
1998-99(P)	141604	176099	8.8	14.2
1999-2000(P)	162738	200062	14.9	13.6

It will be seen from the data that the freeing of imports during this period has not had any significant impact on the average rate of growth of imports.