

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The plans were approved in May, 1977, at an estimated cost of approximately Rs. 4.76 crores.

(c) Construction work started on the 12th May, 1980 and scheduled time for completion of building is 30 months.

(d) The building is now expected to be completed by August 1983 subject to settlement of certain pending issues including clearance of Revised Estimates. The revised estimated cost is Rs. 15.88 crores.

(e) The construction work did not progress satisfactorily on account of erratic supply of cement and steel. Engineers India Limited have been appointed as Consultants for project management, procurement services and construction management for STC's building project to ensure speedy execution.

Fall in Growth-rate in Exports

134. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI RAM LAKHAN PRASAD GUPTA:
SHRI LAKHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to Indian Chamber of Commerce Survey Report that growth-rate in exports picked up from 5.9 per cent in 1978-79 to 11.3 per cent in 1979-80 but went down to 3.7 per cent in 1980-81 and, furthermore, that even in 1938 India's share in world exports was 2.9 per cent while in 1970 it came down to 0.72 per cent and only 0.36 per cent in 1980; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and the reasons for the fall in growth-rate in exports?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to available data the growth of India's overall exports during 1980-81 was 3.9 per cent as against a growth of 12.8 per cent in 1979-80 and 6.0 per cent in 1978-79. The growth of exports during 1980-81 was hampered by the poor performance of Indian Economy in 1979-80 and the first half of 1980-81 under the effects of drought and characterised by low production levels, lack of infrastructural facilities for export production and domestic inflation. The resultant domestic shortage also necessitated higher imports of essential commodities which inflated the import bill. The international environment was also not conducive to growth of exports following world-recession, prevalence of fluctuating exchange rate and new type of tariff, non-tariff and other protectionist measures followed by developed countries. These factors have had also an adverse impact on India's share in world trade.

Indo-Iran Economic Cooperation

135. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had led a delegation to Iran in the month of August this year; and

(b) if so, what is the result of the visit, indicating the terms of the agreement, if any, entered into during the visit with a view to increasing economic cooperation between the two countries?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) The Commerce Minister had led a delegation to Iran in the month of August this year.

(b) The Indian Delegation discussed bilateral matters of mutual interest with the Iranian Delegation. As a result of these discussions areas of mutual trade interest have been