

Dry port in Punjab

868. SHRIMATI SAROJ KHAPARDE- Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO OPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Punjab Government has moved the Central Government to set up a dry port in Punjab; and

(b) if so, what is Central Government's decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BAIG): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Dwindling Exports under PL. 480 Funds

869. SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:
SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the exports under the Indo-US agreement signed in 1974 in regard to the repayment of PL 480 funds have virtually stopped with India having exported goods worth only Rs 13 lakhs so far; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and what is Government of India's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BAIG): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However exports relate only to Part II of the Agreement on PL 480 and other funds between the Govt, of India and the Govt, of USA signed in 1974 and are to be made out of non-PL 480 funds and not PL 480 funds. As per para 10(C) of this Agreement, exports of goods and services totalling up to \$ 109 million over a period of 5 years are to be

made to US Govt, agencies with 75 per cent payment in dollars and 25 per cent from non PL 480 funds. Upto June, 30, 1977 purchases by Us Govt, have only amounted to Rs. 13,24,330. Slow progress in these purchases is a matter of concern to the Govt, of India because more purchases would result in additionality of our exports to USA and would result in a draw-down on US held non-PL 480 funds in India. Steps are being taken to increase the exports under this agreement.

US Aid

870. SHRI BHOLA PRASAD:
SHRI BIR CHANDRA DEB
BURMAN; SHRI YOGENDRA
SHARMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make any fresh efforts for seeking economic assistance from the United States; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) and (b) The U.S. Administration has initiated discussions on the prospects of a resumption of development assistance to India. The areas and projects for which such aid could be utilised are under discussion.

Alleged irregularities in Calcutta Circle of the Punjab National Bank

871. SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA:
SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA:
SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND;

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the alleged irregularities involving crores of rupees in the Calcutta circle of the Punjab National Bank;