

basis of provisional data, which is yet to be finalised, there was a favourable balance of trade during the year 1976-77 of the order of Rs. 72.40 crores. The provisional data for the month of April 1977 shows a favourable balance of trade of about Rs. 80.51 crores.

(b) The new Government have given a fresh orientation to the Import Trade Control Policy as also the Export Policy to ensure that the necessary inputs for domestic as well as export production are more easily available, while, at the same time, the interests of the indigenous industry are protected. Government intend taking all necessary steps of export promotion and import substitution to achieve the export target for 1977-78, and to attain a more favourable balance of trade.

#### **Increase in the non-plan expenditure**

393. SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the non-Plan expenditure of certain Ministries has gone up during the last two years; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to avoid non-essential expenditure and to reduce the non-Plan expenditure and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Ministries and Departments have been requested to undertake a review for effecting economy in Government expenditure. This will be through scrutiny of their current functions, systems and procedures. They have also been requested to make a detailed examination of all the Commissions and Committees that have been set up and are in existence to see whether they are serving a significantly useful purpose to justify their further continuance. The existing laws are also to be reviewed with a view to seeing if they have become superfluous and the staff originally recruited for their administration could be surrendered. The other economy measures cover ban/

restrictions on creation of new posts and filling up of vacancies, strict economy in office expenditure, reduction in overtime payments and restrictions on expenditure on telephones, consumption of electricity etc. While adoption of these measures help in containing the growth of non-Plan expenditure and avoidance of non-essential expenditure, it has not been found possible to isolate and identify the results achieved in precise terms.

#### **20-Point Programme in the Ministry**

394. SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state :

(a) in what manner the Ministry of Civil Supplies and Cooperation was concerned with the implementation of the 20-Point Programme launched after June, 1975;

(b) whether any assessment of the achievements of this programme, in so far as his Ministry was concerned, has been made and if so with what results; and

(c) what is the expenditure incurred under various heads like advertisements, conveyance, grants given to persons/bodies for the implementation of this programme?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA) : (a) Of the 20-Point Programme the Ministry of Civil Supplies and Cooperation was directly concerned with the implementation of "Continuance of steps of bring down prices of essential commodities: Streamlining production, procurement and distribution of essential commodities."

(b) Periodic assessment of the achievement was made. However, till March 1977, no effective and planned steps were taken for the production, procurement and distribution of essential commodities and to bring down their prices.

(c) No expenditure was incurred on advertisement, conveyance and grants for the implementation of this programme.