

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) :

(a) to (c). The question whether there is a need for an Export-Import Bank for the country and, if so, what should be its functions, is under the consideration of Government.

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735. [Transferred to the 22nd March, 1974.]

Confederation of Asian Chambers of Commerce and Industry

736. DR. KUMARI SAROJINI
KRISHNARAO BABAR :
SHRIMATI RATHNABAI
SREENIVASA RAO :
SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHAN-
KAR ADIVAREKAR :
SHRI M. S. ABDUL KHADER:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the fifth Conference of the Confederation of Asian Chambers of Commerce and Industry was held in New Delhi recently ;

(b) if so, the main conclusion-, and recommendations of the Conference ; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Conference was organised by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

(b) A statement is attached.

(c) The Government have noted the conclusions and recommendations.

Statement

It is learnt that the main conclusions and recommendations of the Fifth Conference of the Confederation of Asian Chambers of Commerce and Industry were as follows :

(1) The Conference considered it imperative that respective Governments be urged to —

(i) arrange a progressive restructuring of energy base and encourage research into alternate sources of energy ;

(ii) encourage the exploration of the oil resources of the region, both, inland and offshore, and, for this purpose, give realistic incentives at all levels; and

(iii) initiate community agreements to bring greater parity in price levels in commodities.

(2) The Conference expressed hope that the operations of Asian Development Bank would be further enlarged and diversified to meet shortage of capital.

(3) CACCI would undertake to initiate a study of current factors affecting the climate for investment in member countries ;

(4) CACCI would undertake a detailed study of existing trade pattern in the region and examine the possibility of developing an overall trade and investment plan ;

(5) In order to promote larger trade flows between countries and help correct trade imbalances—

(i) greater attention had to be paid to agricultural development, including creation of Asian Butter Stock of food-grains ;

(ii) the new Australian system of Tariff Preferences for developing countries as also steps taken by Japan were commended.

(iii) The Asian Trade Expansion Programme had to be made fully operative and effective.

(iv) Long-term arrangements and treaties between countries should be entered into to step up intra-regional trade.

(v) The handicaps in the way of setting up of the Asian Clearing Union and the Asian Reserve Bank had to be removed.

(vi) [It was hoped that satisfactory arrangements for relatively stable currency values would be devised.

(6) CACCI Commission on Transport, Communication and shipping would continue to work towards the solution of shipping and ocean freight problems in close liaison with the ECAFE Centre for Shipping Information and Advisory Services. CACCI would study the feasibility of regional co-operation in this field. A uniform and universally acceptable Code of conduct for liner Conferences had to be adopted particularly in respect of freight rates.

(17) The CACCI Commission of Asian Customs Brokers and Agents was constituted to promote the adoption of aligned system of export documentation throughout the region.

(18) A special Commission of CACCI was established to seek the co-operation of key agencies in the field of tourism.

(19) It was accepted that Chambers of Commerce in Member countries of CACCI should keep themselves in close contact, exchange information on regular basis, sponsor trade and investment promotion visits by delegations of businessmen, provide training facilities, organise exhibitions and product display, etc. The feasibility of establishing a Permanent Secretariat for CACCI would be studied.

Conversion of Srinagar Airport into International Airport

737. DR. KUMARI SAROJINI KRISHNARAO BABAR :

SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHAN-NIVASA RAO :

SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR :

SHRI M. S. ABDUL KHADER :

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Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to convert the Srinagar airport into an international airport ; and

(b) if so, by when the project is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR):

(a) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

(b) Does not arise,

Indo-Sri Lanka collaboration in tea exports

738. DR. KUMARI SAROJINI KRISHNARAO BABAR :

SHRIMATI RATHNABAI SREENIVASA RAO :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to collaborate with Sri Lanka in the field of tea exports; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) and (b) During the visit of the Indian Delegation to Sri Lanka from the 2nd to 7th February, 1974, there was recognition by the Governments of India and Sri Lanka of the need to ensure remunerative prices for tea in the international market and thereby improve the vitally needed foreign exchange earnings of the tea producing countries.

739. [Transferred to the 20th March, 1974]