

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take to remedy the situation?

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

(b) The supervision and enforcement work relating to weights and measures is a State subject. However, the Government of India has been impressing on the State Governments the need to tighten the actual enforcement of the law as also the verification of the various weights and measures, so as to prevent any avoidable loss to the general public. The State Governments have also been asked to strengthen their supervisory machinery wherever it is considered necessary for more effective enforcement.

AGREEMENT WITH BANGLA DESH FOR IMPORT OF NEWSPRINT

***307. SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item in the Economic Times of April 26, 1973, captioned 'Bangla newsprint—STC bungles';

(b) if so, how far the report that STC has signed the agreement with Bangla Desh for the Import of 10,000 tonnes of newsprint at a price of Rs. 200 per tonne c.i.f. Indian ports is correct; and

(c) what are the reasons for this high price offered to Bangla Desh?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYA-YA): (a) and (b) Government have seen the Press report in question. The price contracted for by the State Trading Corporation is U. S. dollars 200.00 per metric ton c.i.f. Indian ports.

(c) The Bangladesh offer was the cheapest on CIF basis received by STC against a global tender.

KARNATAK EXPORT HOUSE

***308. SHRI KOTA PUNNAIAH:**
SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR:
SHRI J. S. TILAK:
SHRI BRAHMANANDA
PANDA:
SHRI KRISHAN KANT:
SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Import Licences have been issued to Karnatak Export House by transfer against import entitlement earned by Tobacco Exporters under arrangement for barter deals through the State Trading Corporation and meant for transfer only to actual users of imported raw materials;

(b) the reasons for permitting such transfer to the Karnatak Export House, which is not an actual user; and

(c) the value of these licences, and the items allowed for import?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYA-YA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under import control procedures, eligible export houses can function as an agency to arrange bulk imports of raw materials for distribution to actual users.

(c) Import of stainless steel of permissible specifications valued at Rs. 72.35 lakhs was allowed, required for the manufacture of surgical instruments and hospital wares.

ADMISSION OF CHINA TO THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

***309. SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL:**
SHRI LOKANATH MISRA:
SHRI SUNDAR MANI
PATEL:
SHRI DEBANANDA AMAT:
SHRI CHANDRAMOULI
JAGARLAMUDI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether China is proposed to be admitted as a member of the Asian Development Bank; and

(b) if so, the stand of Government of India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN): (a) China has not yet applied for the membership of the Asian Development Bank.

(b) Does not arise.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES

***310. SHRI HIMMAT SINH:**
SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI:
SHRI K. C. PANDA:
SHRI HARSH DEO MALA-
VIYA:
SHRI CHANDRAMOULI
JAGARLAMUDI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of foreign exchange reserves as on 1st April, 1972 and 1973; and

(b) the efforts being made by Government to improve the balance of payment position of the country?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN): (a) The foreign exchange reserves, including Gold and SDRs, at the end of March 1972 and 1973 were Rs. 848.7 crores and Rs. 815.7 crores (provisional) respectively.

(b) Government is making constant efforts to strengthen the country's balance of payments. Export promotion and import substitution play a major role in this as contribution to self reliance.

LOSSES IN GOVERNMENT OWNED HOTELS

***311. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI**
KUMARI CHUNDAWAT:
SHRI MOHAMMED USMAN
ARIF:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that some Government owned hotels like Akbar,

Ranjit, Lodhi in New Delhi; Ashoka in Bangalore and Aurangabad Hotel at Aurangabad are running into heavy losses;

(b) if so, what are the details of the losses suffered by each of the Hotels;

(c) what are the main reasons for the losses; and

(d) what action government are taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH): (a) and (b) Ashoka and Janpath hotels in New Delhi have been making a profit consistently for the last several years. Akbar hotel in New Delhi and Ashoka hotel in Bangalore which commenced operations on 27-1-1972 and 1-5-1971 respectively, are expected to make profits during 1972-73 although they incurred losses during 1971-72. Ranjit and Lodhi hotels in New Delhi have, however, been operating at a loss. The Aurangabad hotel was taken over by the India Tourism Development Corporation on 1.10.1972 from the Railways and is likely to suffer a marginal loss during 1972-73.

(c) and (d) The reasons for the losses incurred by Lodhi and Ranjit hotels are that they were originally built as hostels and require considerable additions and alterations to make them profitable units. Suitable steps in this regard have already been initiated by the management of the Indian Tourism Development Corporation.

सरकार द्वारा मिलों से कपड़े की

सीधी बसूली

***312. श्री पंडरीनाथ सीतारामजी**
पाटिल : क्या वाणिज्य मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने कपड़े के मूल्य में वृद्धि न होने देने तथा मुताफाखोरी को रोकने के लिए मिलों से कपड़े की सीधी बसूली