

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE
SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) and (b) A
statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) Export of Indian engineering goods
(including iron and steel products) to
Soviet Union during the last three years is
given below :—

(In Rs. crores)

Year	Exports
1969	14.14
1970	20.07
1971	17.93
	(Provisional)

(b) Under the provisions of the bilateral
trade agreement between India and the
USSR, payments for Indian exports are
made in Indian rupees from rupee accounts
maintained by the Bank of Foreign Trade
of USSR in India.

COVER TO INDIAN EXPORTERS AGAINST
LOSSES DUE TO WORLD CURRENCY FLUCTUA-
TIONS

*305. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH :
Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE
be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to
provide a cover to Indian exporters against
possible losses due to world currency
fluctuations; and

(b) whether any decision has been taken
by Government in this regard and if so,
the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN
TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) and
(b) The Reserve Bank of India is already
providing cover through authorised dealers
in foreign exchange to Indian exporters in
respect of £ Sterling upto a period of six
months. The question of providing cover

for a longer period and for other currencies
is under examination by a Working Group
set up by Ministry of Finance.

CLOSURE OF INDIA FOOD PRODUCTS OFFICE AT
BRUSSELS

*306. SHRI SITARAM KESRI :
Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE
be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have closed
down the India Food Products Office at
Brussels; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

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

(b) Yes, Sir. The work assigned to
Foreign Office can be done economically
by S.T.C.

HARASSMENT OF PARCEL CLERKS AT ALL-
AHABAD

*307. SHRI MAN SINGH VARMA :
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased
to state :

(a) whether Government have received
memoranda signed by parcel clerks posted at
Allahabad regarding their harassment
owing to inadequate supply of labour by
the Cooperative Society ;

(b) if so, what action has been taken
in the matter;

(c) the number of other complaints
received by Government regarding delay
in removal of consignments due to short
supply of labour during the last three years
together with the action taken in the matter;

(d) whether it is a fact that the society
does not supply the requisite number of
labourers per day as per the terms of con-
tract; and

(e) if so, whether any deductions are made
from the handling bills for not supplying
the labour as per the terms of the contract ?