

of leather and leather goods; Proposal to set up a Marine Products development Authority for directing export effort of marine products, and canalization of import of cashew kernels through a Public Sector Agency.

- (j) *Market Surveys*.—Market Surveys in respect of various commodities with export potential are undertaken through export promotion organisations such as the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, Commercial Sections of our Missions abroad and the Export Promotion Councils and through trade delegations sponsored from time to time.

HIPPIES

*109. SARDAR NARINDAR SINGH
BRAH:

SHRI GURCHARAN SINGH
TOFRA:

SHRI A. D. MANI:

SHRI JAI SINGH SISODIA:

SHRI M. CHANDRASEKHARAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government of India has been drawn to a newspaper report which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' of the 10th April, 1970 to the effect that the Singapore Government have imposed restrictions on foreign hippies accusing them of polluting Singapore's social environment with drugs and other degenerate habits;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Singapore Government have also warned air and shipping companies against allowing hippies to disembark in that country;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government of India in the matter;

(d) whether the Indian missions abroad have been asked to scrutinise the visa applications of hippies who want to enter India; and

(e) the estimated number of hippies in India during 1969?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government are not aware the action taken by Government of Singapore. This is a matter within their domestic jurisdiction.

(d) Yes, Sir. They have been instructed to exercise greater discretion in the issue of visas to persons with unconventional habits, some of whom have been found to be drug addicts, with a view to discouraging their entry into India.

(e) No separate statistics are maintained in respect of such persons.

ASIAN CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS VIETNAM, CAMBODIA AND LAOS

*110. SHRI KRISHAN KANT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has initiated any steps to hold an Asian Conference to discuss Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos;

(b) if so, when the conference is likely to be held;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH):
(a) No, Sir. Indonesia has mooted such a proposal. Our views have been conveyed to Indonesia and the matter is under discussion with India and other countries concerned. (b) and (c) Final decisions regarding the conference have yet to be taken.

DECLINE IN IMPORTS

*111. SHRI BALACHANDRA MENON:

SHRI M. V. BHADRAM:

SHRI S. G. SARDESAI:

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a considerable decline in imports during the period from January to November, 1969;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) to what extent this decline was accountable to import substitution; and,

(d) what is the amount of foreign exchange saved as a result thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK): (a) The value of imports in January-November 1969 was Rs. 1482 crores as against Rs. 1766 crores for the corresponding period in the previous year.

(b) The fall in imports is mainly due to lower imports of foodgrains, machinery, cotton, chemicals, iron and steel, non-ferrous metals, petroleum products and the fall in import licensing in 1967-68, and 1968-69.

(c) and (d) It is difficult to assess exactly to what extent the decline in imports is due to import substitution during this period as, at the same time, the requirements of certain essential raw materials, components and spares have also increased.

TRADE TALKS WITH YUGOSLAV REPRESENTATIVE

*112. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether he had talks with Mr. Hadzic, Yugoslav representative in India recently regarding the bilateral trade agreement which is going to expire in 1972 and its effect on rupee payment system, if so, the results thereof;

(b) whether the Yugoslav authorities have informed the Government that they are not prepared to accept rupee payment after the agreement ends in 1970; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK): (a) No, Sir. The purpose of the visit of the Yugoslav business delegation led by H.E. Mr. M. Hadzic, Yugoslav Minister of Foreign Trade, was to make an on the spot study of the possibilities of increasing two-way exchanges and not to prepare any ground for future payment arrangements. Further increase in the volume of trade exchanges and diversification therefore figured in the talks.

(b) and (c) During his stay in India the Yugoslav Minister is reported to have stated at a press conference that Yugoslavia wished to change-over to convertible currency arrangements after March, 1972. Existing Trade and Payments Agreement providing for settlement in rupees is valid till 31st March, 1972. Talks will be held on the eve of its expiry for evolving a mutually acceptable future pattern.

परमाणु-अस्त्रों का निर्माण

*113. श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगी कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि परमाणु-अस्त्रों के निर्माण के बारे में सरकार की नीति में हाल में कोई परिवर्तन आया है; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो उसका व्यौरा क्या है; और यदि नहीं, तो चीन और पाकिस्तान के साथ संघर्ष छिड़ने की स्थिति में परमाणु-अस्त्रों के साथ कोई आक्रमण होने पर उसका कैसे मुकाबला किया जायेगा ?

†[MANUFACTURE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS]

*113. SHRI J. P. YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a recent change in Government's stand in regard to the manufacture of nuclear weapons;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and if not, how the attack with nuclear weapons will be resisted in the event of a conflict with China and Pakistan?]

प्रधान मंत्री (श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी) : (क) और (ख) माननीय सदस्य महोदय ने अपने प्रश्न में जो चिंत व्यक्त की है, उसे सरकार अच्छी तरह समझती है। सरकार को देश की सीमाओं पर होने वाले खतरों की जानकारी है और वह यह भी जानती है कि ये खतरे किस तरह की शकल अख्तियार कर सकते हैं। देश की सुरक्षा को होने वाले खतरों का मुकाबला करने के लिए जिस सैनिक तैयारी की जरूरत है, उसे सुनिश्चित करने की दृष्टि से वह समुचित उपाय बरतती रही है।

सरकार का विश्वास है कि कुल मिला कर राष्ट्र के हित में नीति यह है कि हम अपनी वैज्ञानिक और तकनीकी क्षमता का विकास करके परमाणु शक्ति के शांतिपूर्ण उपयोगों के कार्यक्रमों का विस्तार करें। अभी हाल में ऐसी कोई घटना नहीं हुई है, जिसके कारण इस नीति में परिवर्तन करना पड़े। फिर भी, इस संबंध में हमारा जो अनुमान और योजनाएं हैं, उनकी निरंतर समीक्षा की जाती है और ऐसा करते