

COMMUNICATION SATELLITE

216. SHRI N. G. GORAY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to put a Communication Satellite with a 1200 Kg. payload in synchronous orbit;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have sought assistance from any foreign countries in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) when the satellite is likely to be completed and put into orbit?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a), (b) and (e) Government has under consideration a national synchronous satellite for tele-communications. Details are given in the brochure "Atomic Energy and Space Research—A Profile for the Decade 7910-80": copy of which is placed in the Parliament Library.

(c) and (d) Assistance has been received from the United States of America in studies related to the communication satellite. Details of assistance required in future for the building and the launching of the satellite are still to be worked out.

217. [Transferred to the 5th August, 1970.]

TAKEOVER OF FOREIGN TRADE

218. SHRI S. KUMARAN: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 439 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 7th May, 1970 and state:

(a) what further steps have been taken to implement Government's policy of progressive take-over of the country's foreign trade; and

(b) what is the up-to-date progress made in this respect?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK): (a) Government have been undertaking studies of various commodities which appear suitable for State Trading.

A decision has recently been taken to set up two corporations in the public sector for canalised import of raw cotton and raw cashewnuts.

(b) A Statement showing list of items whose import or export is canalised through State Agencies is attached. [See Appendix LXXIII, Annexure No. 22.]

TOP POSTS LYING UNFILLED IN INDIAN MISSIONS ABROAD

219. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA:

SHRI NIREN GHOSH:

SHRI SASANKASEKHAR SANYAL:

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN: SHRI

K. P. SUBRAMANIA

MENON: SHRI ARJUN

ARORA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are many top posts of the rank of first secretaries, counsellors and ministers lying unfilled at present in the Indian missions abroad;

(b) if so, the number of such posts lying unfilled and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government are examining a proposal to draft members from other all-India services for temporary assignment in the foreign service;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is any proposal to cut down the size of some Indian Missions abroad;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps so far taken to Indian use the Indian Mission abroad?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) (a) and (b): No Sir. There are at present only 8 posts of the categories mentioned lying vacant. Of these 4 are newly created ones. Officers have already been selected to fill 6 of these posts and steps to fill the remaining 2 vacancies are also being taken.