

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : (a) Suggestions have been received in various forums to reserve a part of industrial products for exports. No concrete proposals has at present emerged.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

TRADE REPRESENTATION IN EAST BERLIN

1558. SHRIMATI SARLA BHADURIA : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have opened Trade Representation in East Berlin from the 4th October 1969 ; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) There has been a substantial increase in India's trade with G.D.R. in recent years. The two-way trade reached the highest level in 1968 at Rs. 43.4 crores. In order to take full advantage of the possibilities of developing trade to still higher levels the Trade Representation of India in G.D.R. has been opened.

1559. [Transferred to the 22nd December, 1969.]

HIGHER GRADE OF PAY TO DEPUTATIONISTS IN S. T. C.

1560. SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MOKHERJEE : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Board of Directors of the State Trading Corporation has recently approved a proposal whereby employees on deputation with the Corporation will be given a grade of pay higher than their existing grades if they formally resign from their parent service ;

(b) if so, the reasons for giving out of turn promotions and special benefits to the deputationists to the detriment of the interests of the existing employees of the S.T.C. ;

(c) what is the number of the officers so benefited ; and

(d) whether the decision referred to in part (a) above was taken after detailed examination by the Administration Division and with the approval of the full Board ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) :

(a) The Board of Directors of the State Trading Corporation has decided that in selected cases of personnel on deputation to the Corporation where considered justifiable the deputationist may be placed on a higher grade if he resigns from his parent service.

(b) The decision is not a general one applicable to all deputationists. It will be applied only in cases where in the interest of the Corporation it is considered necessary to absorb a deputationist by offering a higher grade.

(c) As at present this benefit is proposed to be given to one officer on deputation to the S.T.C.

(d) The matter was considered by the Board as an item with the permission of the Chairman and was approved by the Board. It was placed before the Board's meeting after it has been examined by the Director in charge of Administration

IMPORT SUBSTITUTION PROCESS

1561. SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIAMENON : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question No. 918 given in the Rajya Sabha on August 7, 1969 and state :

(a) whether suitable trials have since been carried out by the Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory Hyderabad to test the efficiency and suitability of the new import substitution alloy (Indian Patent Specification No. 87430), indigenously developed by an Indian metallurgist ;

(b) if so, the results thereof ; and

(c) the steps now proposed to be taken by Government in circulating this information to all manufacturing/production units under the Ministry of Defence with a view to encouraging and exploiting this important import substitution product and thereby saving valuable foreign exchange ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) Metallurgical tests e.g. chemical composition, physical and mechanical properties at room and elevated temperatures were carried out at Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory, Hyderabad and the patent holder was asked to send more samples to Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute, Durgapur for load test. It is understood that C.M.E.R.I. had received the samples on 30-11-1969 and the required tests are in progress.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) If the bearings manufactured as per Indian Patent Specification No. 87430 are found to be of acceptable quality after completion of trials, necessary steps will be taken to circulate the information to all concerned.

DISFIGURING OF GURDWARAS IN PAKISTAN

1562. SHRI GANESHILAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a move for disfiguring Sikh Gurdwaras in Pakistan; and

(b) if so, what steps the Government of India propose to take in the matter ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) :

(a) The Government is not aware of any such move. However, most gurdwaras in Pakistan are reported to be badly maintained.

(b) Attention of Pakistan Government has been repeatedly drawn towards their obligation for proper maintenance of these shrines.

TAKING OVER OF CARS AT HIGHER RATES BY STC FROM FOREIGN DIPLOMATS

1563. SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MOKHERJEE : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be please to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Trading Corporation has paid to foreign diplomats, for their cars taken over by the Corporation rates higher than the official rate of exchange;

(b) if so, in how many cases such payments have been made and the reasons therefor; and

(c) what action has been taken against officers who have thus infringed the exchange control regulations ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

AGREEMENTS AND ARRANGEMENTS WITH GATT

1564. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the agreements and arrangements which India has got with the GATT;

(b) how far India has benefited from GATT; and

(c) what concessions our country enjoys from the UNCTAD, Kennedy Rounds and Commonwealth preferences and how they are coordinated with the GATT arrangements ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (CHOUHARY RAM SEWAK) :

(a) India is a member of the GATT, a multilateral trade treaty, under which she has reciprocal rights and obligations in respect of her trade with a large number of countries. The GATT provides, in essence, for the following :—

1. Most-favoured nation treatment and non-discriminatory application of customs duty and commercial regulations.

2. Negotiations for reduction in tariff obstacles.

3. Elimination of quantitative restrictions on trade except when justified on balance-of-payments grounds.

4. Latitude required by the developing countries for implementing programmes of economic development in respect of—

(a) maintaining sufficient flexibility in their customs tariffs to be able to grant protection to domestic industries; and