

(a) the number of cases of misuse of import licences which came to Government's notice during the year 1968-69; and

(b) what action was taken to minimise the misuse of import licences?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (CHOWDHARI RAM SEWAK) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

TALKS BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTERS OF INDIA AND SOVIET UNION

263. SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA :

SARDAR NARINDAR SINGH BRAR :

SHRI GANESHI LAL CHAUDHARY :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the substance of the Prime Minister's talks with Premier Kosygin of the Soviet Union when the latter met her briefly on his way to Hanoi; and

(b) whether Mr. Kosygin gave any hint about Russia's interest in promoting the cause of Free Tibet ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) and (b) The talks were of a confidential nature and the details cannot be disclosed.

UPGRADING OF INDIA'S DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION IN HANOI

269. SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI :

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR

MUKHERJEE : SHRI KALYAN

ROY : SHRI N. R. MUNISWAMY

: SHRI CHIT FA BASU : SHRI

LOKNATH MISRA : SHRI

NIRANJAN VARMA :

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIAMENON :

SHRI M. K. MOHTA :

SHRI M. RUTHNASWAMY :

SHRI G. GOPINATHAN NAR :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to upgrade our diplomatic representation in Hanoi ;

(b) if so, whether the Governments of the U. S. A. and the South Vietnam have protested against such a move; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) Government are considering how best expression can be given to the desire in the two countries to strengthen their relations.

(b) and (c) It is for the Government of India to decide the nature and extent of bilateral relations with foreign countries. There can be no question of considering any protest from a third country. However, U. S. Government have conveyed their views to us because of their involvement in Vietnam.

विदेश व्यापार की अभिवृद्धि

270. श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव :

श्री मानसिंह वर्मा :

क्या वैदेशिक व्यापार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) विदेश व्यापार बढ़ाने के लिए सरकार ने अब से एक अलग विभाग बनाया है तब से विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में सरकार द्वारा क्या क्या उपाय किये गये हैं ;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि विदेशों में भारतीय वाणिज्य दूतावासों में लाल फिताशाही की अधिकता के कारण भारतीय सामान के खरीदारों को बहुत कठिनाई होती है ;

(ग) क्या सरकार ने पता लगाया है कि अरब जगत, अफ्रीका और अनेक एशियाई देशों में सब तरह के भारतीय माल की मांग है और यूरोप में लघु उद्योगों तथा हस्तकलाओं द्वारा तैयार माल की मांग है, किन्तु इनकी पूर्ति ठीक ढंग से नहीं हो रही है ; और