

FOREIGN MARKET FOR INDIAN SEEDS

*452. SARDAR RAM SINGH: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there exists at present a potentially substantial market for Indian seeds in South East Asia, West Asia and African countries; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to exploit the situation and promote the sale of Indian seeds in these regions?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : (a) and (b) Preliminary investigations are being made for locating markets in South East Asia, West Asia and African countries for Indian seeds. The exact potentiality for exports of these seeds would only be known after the investigations are completed.

NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY

453. SHRI T. SIDDALINGAYA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the reaction of the Big Powers to India's attitude and refusal to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in its present form ;

(b) the names of the countries which have supported India's stand ; and

(c) whether reactions of U.S.A. and U.S.S.R. have been officially communicated?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) and (c) No specific reaction on the part of U.S.A. and U.S.S.R. has been officially communicated to us. Although they would have liked India to sign the treaty both countries understand the reasons underlying India's attitude to this Treaty.

(b) The following countries, together with India, abstained from voting on the UN General Assembly resolution 2373 (XXII) which commended the Treaty :

Algeria, Argentin, Brazil, Burma, Burundi, Central African Republic, Congo, (Brazzaville), France, Gobon, Guinea, India, Malawai, Mali, Mau-

ritania, Niger, Portugal, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Spain and Uganda, Those who voted against were— Albania, Cuba, Tanzania, and Zambia.

UNHELPFUL ATTITUDE OF INDIAN HIGH COMMISSION IN LONDON

454. SHRI R. K. PODDAR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that complaints continue to be made about the unhelpful attitude of the officials of Indian High Commission in London towards Indian citizens; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take to tone up the working of the Indian High Commission in London?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) In the past, some complaints were received but most of these were found to be without substance.

(b) Any specific complaint is always looked into and suitable action, as necessary is taken.

IRON ORE PURCHASES BY JAPAN

*455. SHRI DEVI SINGH:
SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY :
SARDAR RAM SINGH:

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of India have noted some significant changes in the Japanese purchase pattern of iron ore from India;

(b) whether export iron ore to Japan has registered any increase during this year *vis-a-vis* the last two years; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : (a) Government have noted that Japan has been trying to diversify its sources of supply in the last few years.