

under constant review the results of the liberalisation of imports of raw materials, components and spare parts. Bulk of the licences under the scheme of liberalisation were issued in August and September 1966; some imports have come in against these licences but it is still too early for the full impact of liberalisation to be felt on industrial production in the country.

DELHI AS A DRY PORT

♦181. SHRIMATI CHANDRA SATHE: TARA RAM- Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up any scheme for making Delhi a dry port;

(b) if so, what is the expected outlay needed for the execution of the scheme; and

(c) what would be the administrative convenience and trade advantages resulting from the execution of such a scheme?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) No, Sir. No such scheme has been drawn up.

(b) and (c) The question does not arise.

WATER SUPPLIED IN IMPORTED BOTTLES ON WESTERN RAILWAYS

♦182. SHRI G. D. TAPASE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that water is being supplied to passengers on the Western Railways in bottles labelled in the name of Pure Spring Water of the Mountain Springs Water Co. of U.S.A.;

(b) if so, when the bottles were imported and how many; and

(c) what was the need of importing the bottles when they are available in India?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) These bottles are not imported, but are those left behind by foreign tourists travelling by tourist specials, etc. As they are of durable quality and of adequate size, they are used, after proper cleaning. No extra expenditure is incurred on their account.

EXPORT OF SHOES BY S.T.C. TO U.S.A.

♦183. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Trading Corporation has entered into agreements with American firms for export of shoes to U.S.A.; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH) (a) and (b) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b) The State Trading Corporation have entered into a contract with a U.S. firm, in September, 1966, for the supply of special type of cowboy boots and components thereof like cowboy leather uppers cut-soles, in-soles and heels and also for the supply of finished leather. The total value of the order is of the order of Rs. 329.10 lakhs. Almost all the items contracted for are new and will be produced in the country, for export, for the first time. Delivery is to be completed by December, 1967. However, in view of extensive preliminary work that had to be undertaken for standardisation of sample etc., the State Trading Corporation are negotiating with the Buyers for an extension of the delivery period. Shipments, however, have already commenced.