

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED) : (a) In the context of avoiding repetitive import of know how, Government are considering measures for the import, in appropriate cases, of the same know-how only once through some Central Agency. Such import of know-how may have to be effected through more than one Agency, as no one agency can be expected to assimilate and pass on the know-how in relation to all fields of industry.

INDO-SOVIET TRADE

1316. ARJUN ARORA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the steps taken by Government to correct the imbalance in India's trade with U.S.S.R.?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : The trade between India and U.S.S.R. is carried on the basis of balanced bilateralism through the medium of rupees. In this system, the exports and imports have to match each other over a period of time so that there can be no imbalance in the real sense. The actual figures of the trade of India and U.S.S.R. in recent years do indicate an excess of exports over imports in terms of the value of commodities but this is no more than an apparent imbalance. Credit repayments for the various projects, and instalments, for

large quantities of machinery supplied on the deferred payment system earn substantial funds for U.S.S.R. When such cash payments are also taken into consideration, Indo-Soviet trade is more or less in a position of equilibrium.

As there is no overall imbalance in India's trade with U.S.S.R. no special steps have been considered necessary.

IMPORT OF ACID

1317. SHRI M. V. BHADRAM : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity and value of 'ALGENIC ACID' or 'ALGINATE' imported during the years 1964 to 1967;

(b) the names of the countries from which it is imported; and

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to produce it indigenously?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) and (b) A statement showing the import of Algenic Acid its salts and esters, not elsewhere specified, and Sodium Alginate during 1965-66 to 1967-68, is attached. (*See below*), Import statistics prior to 1965 are not available as this item was not separately classified in the Indian Trade Classification.

(c) Sodium Alginate is already being manufactured in the country.

STATEMENT

Import of Algenic Acid, Its Salts and Esters, N. E. S. and Sodium Alginate during 1965-66 to 1967-68

S. No.	Description/Country	Quantity in Kg.					
		Value in Rs. '0 00					
		1965-66		1966-67		1967-68	
		Qty.	Val.	Qty.	Val.	Qty.	Val.
1	<i>Algenic acid, its salts and esters n.e.s.</i>						
	U.S.A.	2,295	23	..	..	492	11
	Japan	1,351	7	..	..	..	..
	U.K.	3,164	35	2,691	56	2,057	42
	TOTAL	6,810	65	2,691	56	2,549	53

S. No.	Description/Country	1965-66		1966-67		1967-68	
		Qty.	Val.	Qty.	Val.	Qty.	Val.
2	<i>Sodium Alginate</i>						
	Norway	..	..	..	..	1,558	17
	U.S.A.	..	..	3,190	37	..	..
	U.K.	21,712	146	22,670	314	8,825	157
	Others	52	1	1,570	13	..	..
	TOTAL	21,764	147	27,430	364	10,383	174

Import statistics prior to 1965 are not available as this item was not separately classified in Indian Trade Classification.

MODE OF SUPPLYING COAL IN U.P.

1318. SHRI GANESH LAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any changes have been made in the mode of supply of coal to the consumers in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the District Collectors and Supply Officers are authorised to make rules for the same; and

(c) whether it is a fact that in Meerut District the Supply Officers direct the consumers to select particular variety of coal?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

TRADE WITH SOUTH KOREA

1319. SHRI GANESHI LAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India and South Korea have agreed to explore the possibilities of increasing the trade further between the two countries as agreed to at the meeting of the delegates of the two countries recently; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An Official Trade Delegation from the Republic of Korea held talks with an Indian Trade Delegation from the 6th to the 8th August, 1968, on matters relating to expansion of trade and economic co-operation between the two countries. Copies of the Agreed Minutes of Discussions held between the two Delegations as also copies of the Joint Press Release issued after the trade talks, have been placed in the Parliament Library.

ABOLITION OF RAILWAY BOARD

1320. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to abolish the Railway Board and merge it with the Ministry of Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, in what way the Board is proposed to be constituted to make it more effective administratively?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) No proposal to abolish the Railway Board is under the consideration of the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The existing management-cum-technical set-up of the Railway Board is considered well suited to run a concern