

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Whereas inspection of export consignments of spices is not mandatory, exporters desirous of getting their consignments inspected and certified, for purposes of fulfilling importing countries requirements, may avail the services of recognized Government/Private agencies.

Policy to check open import

†1495. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sick industrial units all over the country as per the Economic Survey of 2002-03 and whether the reasons for sickness of these units is to allow the open import;

(b) if so, whether Government have formulated any policy to check open import; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) It is reported in the Economic Survey 2002-03 that according to information compiled by RBI from scheduled Commercial Banks, as on March, 2001 there were 2,52,947 sick/weak units consisting of 2,49,630 in the SSI Sector and 3,317 units in the non-SSI sector. The Survey has not ascribed removal of Quantitative Restrictions on imports as the cause of sickness of these units.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Consultation on non-agricultural market access negotiations at WTO

1496. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government plan to hold extensive consultations with the industry on the issues relating to ongoing

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

non-agricultural market access negotiations at the WTO before finalising their stand; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) For the ongoing non-agricultural market access negotiations wide consultation with the Indian industry has been initiated. The consultations have been held with the apex industry associations like CII, FICCI and ASSOCHAM and other trade/industry bodies. Workshops, round tables and seminars have been organized by some of these bodies. In addition Export promotion and development bodies like Export Promotion Councils, MPEDA, Council for Leather Export are also being consulted. Presentations to trade bodies through other administrative wings of the government like Office of the Textiles Commissioner and Development Commissioner (SSI), have been held.

Indian campaign against MAI

1497. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has stepped up its campaign against the Multilateral Agreements on Investments (MAI) as proposed by the rich nations at Singapore;

(b) whether India has further consistently opposed expansion of WTO agenda to include new issues which are being brought in by the rich countries adversely affecting poor nations; and

(c) if so, Government's views thereon and the status of the discussions with the WTO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) India has consistently expressed its concerns regarding the expansion of the WTO agenda to include new issues.

India has voiced concerns about the inclusion of a multilateral framework on investment at the WTO. The Doha Ministerial Declaration