

Government of NCT of Delhi are being allocated monthly levy sugar quota at the rate higher than 425 gms per capita per month.

Long Term Trade Agreement with USA and Russia

2752. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have entered into a long term trade agreement during the visit of the President of Russian Federation and the President of USA; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) During the visit of the President of the Russian Federation in October 2000, a Declaration on Strategic Partnership between India and the Russian Federation was signed by the Prime Minister of India and the President of the Russian Federation on October 3, 2000. The Declaration, *mrer alia*, deals with strengthening close cooperation within the framework of the Indo-Russian Inter Governmental Commission for Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC), as well as other joint bodies of business and industry representatives, with a view to expand trade and economic relations. The 7th session of the IRIGC will be held in Moscow in January 2001 when the entire gamut of trade and economic cooperation between India and the Russian Federation will be considered in detail.

During the visit of the President of the United States of America to India in March 2000, a document "Formation and Terms of Reference for the India-United States Commercial Dialogue" was signed by the Minister of Commerce and Industry of India and the Secretary of Commerce of the United States of America on March 23, 2000. The Commercial Dialogue aims to facilitate trade, maximise investment opportunities across a broad range of economic sectors, including information technology/ infrastructure, biotechnology and services.