

ance have gone up considerably during the last 12 months as compared to the preceding three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of claims, on review, found to be bogus?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main reasons are increase in number of motor vehicles on road and the consequent increased incidence of road accidents.

(c) Claims which are found, on scrutiny, to be not genuine are not accepted. No separate statistics is maintained of such cases.

India's Stand at Uruguay Round of GATT Negotiations

382. SHRI SHANTARAM
POTDUKHE:
SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD
SHASTRI:
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:
SHRI A.K.A. ABDUL SAMAD:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he led a delegation to the recently held Uruguay Round of GATT negotiations at Brussels;

(b) if so, the stand taken by India on the crucial issues like textiles, services and patents;

(c) the reaction of the European Economic Community and the U.S.

Government's representatives thereto; and

(d) the final outcome of these talks and the reforms in the global trade system suggested there at?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY): (a) to (d). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) The Indian delegation to the recently held Uruguay Round of GATT negotiations at Brussels was led by the Commerce Minister.

(b) The stand taken by India on the crucial issues of Textiles, Services and Patents is as under:

(i) *Textiles*: The discriminatory and restrictive regime on world trade in textiles contained in the Multi-Fibres Agreement (MFA) should be phased out.

(ii) *Services*: Agreement should include provisions to facilitate temporary re-location of labour in industrialized countries.

(iii) *Patents*: Norms and standards should reflect the stage of development, and the same level of obligation should not be made applicable to all countries.

(c) The position of USA and EEC on these issues are as follows:

(i) *Textiles*: USA and EEC are willing to phase out MFA. Negotiations are still being held on the time frame and modalities of the phase out.

- (ii) *Services*: So far, US and EEC are agreeable to allow temporary entry of professional and managerial personnel only. They also want to restrict the possibility of movement of personnel only to those situations in which the movement is necessary to the supply of services.
- (iii) *Patents*: US and EEC are major demanders for uniform norms and standards on patents.

(d) The Uruguay Round of Negotiations has not yet concluded because of the stalemate on trade in agriculture.

Trade Deficit

383. SHRI SHANTARAM
POTDUKHE:
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:
SHRI HARI SHANKAR
MAHALE:
SHRI MANDHATA SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the trade deficit in September, 1990 has turned out to be an all-time record for any month;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the yearly details of trade deficit from 1987-88 to 1989-90 and 1990-91 till date; and
- (d) the measures—fiscal and others—being taken to check this fast deteriorating position of trade deficit during the remaining part of the current year?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRISHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAM DAS PATEL): (a) The trade deficit of Rs. 1208 crores recorded during September, 1990 is the highest recorded for any month during the period of last five years.

(b) The main reason for the high trade deficit was the import of POL products which amounted to Rs. 1353 crores during the month of September, 1990, as compared to Rs. 413 crores during September, 1989.

(c) The details of the trade deficit during the years 1987-88 to 1990-91 (till date) are as under:

<i>(Rs. crores)</i>	
<i>Year</i>	<i>Trade Deficit</i>
1	2
1987-88	6570
1988-89	8004
1989-90	7730
1990-91 (P) (April-October)	5334

(P—Provisional)

Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta.

(d) The Government has taken several initiatives for export promotion and efficient import substitution with a view to contain the trade deficit. On the export front, the Government has taken initiatives to ensure availability of raw materials, components and capital goods at near world prices, strengthening export incentive Schemes, improvement in the infrastructural facilities and efficient demand management policies. The steps taken to reduce imports include