

16. Raw Silk

17. Medicinal Herbs

[English]

Super 301 Issue

388. DR. VENKATESH KABDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the present position regarding naming India under Super 301 provision of US Trade Act; and

(b) the steps, Government propose to take to improve trade with United States?

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

STATEMENT

(a) On 14 June, 1990, the US Trade Representative (USTR) determined that certain allegedly trade restricting investment measures and barriers to foreign insurance providers imposed by Government of India were unreasonable and burdened or restricted US Commerce. The USTR however, determined that no responsive action under Section-301 of the US Trade Act was appropriate at that time, given the potential for results through Government of India's participation in the Uruguay Round Negotiations on Trade Related Investment Measures and Services. Therefore, the investigations initiated against India were terminated and the status of India's practices was proposed to be reviewed after the conclusion of the Uruguay Round Negotiations. It was stated that if no progress was made on Trade Related Investment Measures and services in those negotiations, the USTR would consider at that time whether to take action under Section 301 of the Trade Act. The

Uruguay Round was to have concluded on 7 December 1990, but has been prolonged. No further pronouncement of the United States Government on this subject has been received.

(b) Proposals have been made in the Uruguay Round by U.S.A. and India to improve access in each others market. Bilateral and Multilateral negotiations on these proposals are continuing.

[Translation]

Pay Scales of RRB Employees

389. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the time by which the Hyderabad Tribunal Award regarding pay scales, allowances and other benefits for the regional rural banks employees is likely to be implemented?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): Government is taking necessary measures to implement the award of the National Industrial Tribunal set up to decide pay, allowances and other benefits payable to the employees of Regional Rural Banks. As the Tribunal has left it to the Government to equate the posts in Regional Rural Banks with those in sponsor banks, an Equation Committee has already been constituted to examine various issues relating to equation of posts and fitment of pay scales. The Committee is making every effort to submit its report to the Government at the earliest.

Setting up of Rural Banks at Central Level

390. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: