

Import of Dry Fruits from Iran

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 *547. { Shri Vishram Prasad:
 Shri Narasimha Reddy:
 Shri Prakash Vir Shastri:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently entered into a bilateral agreement with the Government of Iran for import of dry fruits;

(b) if so, the total value of the imports covered under such agreement; and

(c) whether applications for import licences have been received by Government in this connection?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) No, Sir. It was as early as in August, 1962 that the current Indo-Iranian trade agreement valid for one year was signed at Tehran. Dry fruits constitute one of the commodities specified in the Agreement.

(b) and (c). It will not be possible to estimate the value of imports covered under the agreement. The applications continue to be received from time to time.

Shri Vishram Prasad: The hon. Minister just now said that dry-fruits was one of the items of the agreement. May I know what are the other items for which this agreement was concluded?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Engineering products, textiles, art silk fabrics, machinery, chemicals, paints and varnishes, etc.

Shri Vishram Prasad: For how much will we be exporting and for how much will we be importing into this country?

Shri Manubhai Shah: If the hon. Member has in mind any rupee agreement or anything like that it is not

that. Fortunately or otherwise the balance of payment is in our favour, as far as merchandise is concerned. The bulk purchase of crude oil comes from Iran, and therefore, the balance is very much adverse as far as oil is concerned.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : क्या यह सच है कि ड्राई फ्रूट्स लाने के लिये ईरान से, प्रकैली एक फर्म को साढ़े-बारह लाख रुपये का लाइसेंस दिया गया है ?

श्री मनुभाई शाह : ऐसा नहीं है, लेकिन चूंकि ड्राई फ्रूट्स में प्रॉफिट बहुत है और उसके द्वारा हम प्रौर एक्सपोर्ट की इमदाद कर सकते हैं, इसलिए बहुत सी क्वांटिटी में से थोड़ी सी क्वालिटी इस तरह से भी बांटी गई है ।

Business and Export Houses

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 *548. { Shri Subodh Hansda:
 Shri S. C. Samanta:
 Shri B. K. Das:
 Shri M. L. Dwivedy:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no Business and Export Houses have been set up by Indian Businessmen in many African and Asian Countries;

(b) if so, how far the absence of such organisation has handicapped India's export; and

(c) Government's attitude in regard to the opening of such organisations in those countries?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) While Indian business houses have set up branches or sister concerns in many African or Asian countries to handle traditional commodities such as textiles, similar arrangements have not yet developed adequately in respect of our newer export items such as engineering goods.