

(c) Import figures for conveyer belting during the last three years are as under:—

Year	Value
1963-64	Rs. 33.85 lakhs
1964-65	Rs. 26.27 lakhs
1965-66	Rs. 12.92 lakhs

#### Recovery of Export Earnings from Pakistan

\*657. **Shri Subodh Hansda:**  
**Shri S. C. Samanta:**  
**Shri P. C. Borooah:**  
**Shri M. L. Dwivedi:**  
**Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:**  
**Dr. M. M. Das:**

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 703 on the 26th August, 1966 and state:

(a) the steps since taken to recover the arrears of export earnings from Pakistan; and

(b) the outcome thereof?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah):** (a) and (b). It is not possible at this stage to take any further steps to recover the balance of arrears of export earnings from Pakistan since trade with that country has still not been resumed.

#### Surgical Equipments

\*658. **Shri Maheswar Naik:** Will the Minister of Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister of Health and Family Planning in her inaugural speech while opening the mobile educational seminar on surgery sponsored by the Pan-Pacific Surgical Association opined that India is facing acute dearth of upto-date surgical equipments to the detriment of the interest of the people in the country;

(b) if so, how the shortage is going to be met; and

(c) whether indigenous industries with or without foreign collaboration for the manufacture of these equipments are being contemplated to meet the shortage?

**The Minister of Industry (Shri D. Sanjivayya):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) For the requirements of medical profession for specialised surgical instruments which are not at present available, the present policy is that any medical practitioner can import surgical instruments for a value of Rs. 500 and any Medical Institution can import up to a value of Rs. 1000.

(c) A Surgical Instruments Plant has been set up at Madras in the Public Sector with Russian assistance. The project was commissioned to operate from 1st September, 1965. A number of surgical instruments, mostly common user items, are now under production. Three units in the private sector have been granted provisional registration for manufacture of various types of surgical instruments. It is expected that major portion of the requirements of surgical instruments would be manufactured in the country by the end of the current plan period. Some imports may, however, continue particularly of highly specialised and sophisticated types for which there may not be large demand in numbers to undertake the economic manufacture thereof?

#### European Common Market

\*659. **Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reports that British Prime Minister, Mr. Harold Wilson is now keen on U.K.'s entry into the E.C.M.; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government for the protection of Indian export trade in the event of this proposal materialising?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah):** (a) Yes, Sir. The Government have seen reports of the statement made by British Prime Minister, Mr. Wilson, that the British Government have decided to make a new high level approach to the EEC to see whether conditions exist—or do not exist—for fruitful negotiations, and the basis on which such negotiations could take place.