

(d) when was the last meeting of Export Inspection Council of India held and who were the members of the Council at that time;

(e) whether there is any violation of the provisions of the Act in holding such meetings;

(f) if so, the authority under whose Export Inspection Council of India has been functioning; and

(g) whether any action has been taken against the officials if they have violated the Council Act 1963 in either way; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The main functions of the Export Inspection Council of India are to advise the Central Government regarding measures for the enforcement of quality control and inspection in relation to commodities intended for export and to draw up programmes therefor; and to arrange pre-shipment inspection of notified commodities for export.

(b) No, Sir

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The last meeting of the Council was held on 28th October, 1993. The list of the council Members at that time is given in the Statement enclosed.

(e) The Act does not contain any provision for holding such meetings.

(f) to (h). Do not arise.

#### STATEMENT

Shri J.K. Bagchi, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, New Delhi.	Chairman
Director of Inspection and Quality Control, Export Inspection Council, New Delhi.	Member- Secretary
Director General of Bureau of Indian Standards, New Delhi.	Member, Ex-Officio
Agricultural Marketing Adviser to the Government of India, New Delhi.	Member, Ex-Officio
Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta.	Member, Ex-Officio
Secretary (Technical Development) and Director General (Technical Development) Ministry of Industry, New Delhi.	Member
Director (In-charge of Export Inspection) Ministry of Commerce, New Delhi.	Member
Director (Finance Division), Ministry of Commerce, New Delhi.	Member
Development Commissioner, Small Scale Industries, New Delhi.	Member

Representative of the Department of  
Science and Technology, Government  
of India, New Delhi. Member |

Director, Central Institute of Fisheries,  
Technology, Cochin.

Member

Representative of Director General of  
Supplies and Disposals, New Delhi.

Member

Director,  
Fruits and Vegetable Preservation,  
New Delhi.

Member

Quality Marking Centre,  
Directorate of Industries,  
Government of U.P.

Member

Quality Marking Centre, Directorate of  
Industries, Government of Punjab.

Member

Rail India Technical and Economic  
Services Ltd., Ministry of Railways,  
New Delhi.

Member

Chairman, Agricultural Produce Export  
Development Authority, New Delhi.

Member

Chairman, Spices Board, Cochin.

Member

President, Seafood Exporters'  
Association, Cochin.

Member

Chairman,  
Council for Leather Exports, Madras.

Member

#### Liaison Offices of Foreign Insurance Companies in India

4380. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :  
DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :  
SHRI T. GOVINDAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has permitted  
four foreign Insurance Companies to open their Liaison  
Offices in India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof; and the terms and  
conditions set up therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P.  
CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The Reserve Bank of  
India (RBI) has accorded permission to Zurich Insurance  
Co., Switzerland, Yasuda Fire & Marine Insurance Co.  
Ltd., Japan, Cigna International Corporation, U.S.A. and  
Allianz Holding, Germany to open their liaison offices in  
India. Some of the important conditions imposed by RBI  
are -

(i) The Liaison office will be permitted initially  
only for a period of three years for  
undertaking solely liaison activities viz. to  
act as a communication channel between  
Head Office and parties in India;

(ii) they would not be permitted to write any  
insurance business in India;

- (iii) Except the proposed liaison work, the office in India will not undertake any other activity of a trading commercial or industrial nature nor shall it enter into any business contracts in its own name without prior permission of RBI.
- (iv) No commission/fees will be charged or any other remuneration received/income earned by the office in India for the liaison activities/services rendered by it or otherwise in India.
- (v) The entire expenses of the office in India will be met exclusively out of the funds received from abroad through normal banking channels.
- (vi) The office in India shall not acquire, hold, (otherwise than by way of lease for a period not exceeding five years) transfer or dispose of any immovable property in India without obtaining prior permission of the RBI under Section 31 of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973.
- (vii) They will furnish an annual report of the work done by the office in India, stating therein the details of actual export or import, if any, effected during period in respect of which the office had rendered liaison services.
- (viii) The Liaison office will not render any consultancy or any other services directly/indirectly with or without any consideration.

#### Balance of Payment with Thailand

4381. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Thailand is the fifteenth largest market for Indian items.

(b) if so, the value of export and import made by the two countries during the previous years.

(c) whether there is a gap in regard to export and import made between the two countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to reduce the gap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) No, Sir. As per the statistics available with the DGCI&S Thailand ranked 16th amongst the countries importing goods from India during 1995-96.

(b) The details of bilateral trade between the two countries during 1995-96 are as under :

(Value in Million US \$)

Export	Import	Total	Trade	Balance of Trade
474.31	168.29	642.60		(-) 306.02

(c) and (d). Since India is having favourable balance of trade with Thailand, no specific steps are contemplated to reduce the trade gap. However, various measures have been taken to boost the bilateral trade between India and Thailand which include holding of regular meetings of the Joint Trade Committee between the two countries, exchange of business delegations, participation in trade fairs and exhibitions in each other's countries and continuous interaction at official levels to sort out various operational problems in free flow of trade.

[Translation]

#### Textile Designing Exhibition

4382. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Textile Designing Exhibition has been organised in Maharashtra during the last three years till date;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the orders received through such exhibitions;

(d) whether the Government propose to hold more such exhibitions in the State in future; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :

(a) to (e). In January 1995 and February 1996, two textiles fairs named "TEX-STYLES INDIA", had been organised in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

There were 324 and 350 participants in "TEX-STYLES INDIA" 1995 and 1996, respectively. Order worth Rs. 39.1 crores and Rs. 210 crores respectively had reportedly been booked during these fairs.

At present, there is no proposal to hold a textile fair in Maharashtra.

[English]

#### Duty Evasion by Multinational Companies

4383. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :  
SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether cases of duty evasion by some of the multinational companies have been noticed by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last two year alongwith the amount involved therein and the details of such multinational companies;

(c) whether the Government have ordered probe into the affairs of some multinational companies for alleged evasion of customs duty and violation of the provisions of customs duty;