

Trade Deficit2371. **SHRI C. P. MUDA-
BAGIRYAPPA****SHRI RAJENDRA
KUMAR SHARMA**

} Will

the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

- (a) the trade deficit during the period from April 1990 to November, 1990;
- (b) whether this is the highest trade deficit ever recorded for eight months;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the corrective measures the Government propose to take to improve the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) As per provisional figures available from the DGCI & S, Calcutta, the trade deficit amounted to Rs. 7181 crores during April, 1990 to November, 1990.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The main reasons for the high trade deficit during April-Nov., 1990 were decline in exports of Gems & Jewellery on account of recession in the world market for small diamonds, coffee, rice, etc., and increase in import of petroleum and petroleum products, Edible oil, pulses etc.

(d) The Government have recently introduced far-reaching reforms in the export-import policy aimed at reducing controls through licensing, strengthening export incentives and linking import capability in a wide range of imports to export earnings. These are designed to improve the export environment which will lead to increase in production and improvement in the quality of export goods. Besides, the downward adjustment in the value of Rupee effected by RBI on 1st and 3rd July, 1991 is also expected to improve India's export earnings and this will consequently reduce the trade deficit.

**Reservation for Scheduled Castes/
Scheduled Tribes in Nationalised Banks**

2372. **SHRI MUKUL WASNIK** : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) Whether the Supreme Court has ordered the Syndicate Bank to provide reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Services upto Top Executive Grade-Scale VII;
- (b) if so, whether the bank has implemented the orders;
- (c) if not, the reasons for the delay;
- (d) whether the Government have issued a similar directives to other nationalised banks also; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Syndicate Bank has reported that the Hon'ble Supreme Court has granted extension of time upto 15-10-1991 for implementation of the judgement. It has further, reported that the judgement would be implemented by it within the time granted.

(d) and (e) The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order dated 1-4-91 has ordered that its judgement dated 10-8-90 is applicable only in respect of the SC/ST employees in Syndicate Bank. As such, no directives to other nationalised banks have been issued.

[Translation]

**Financial Assistance by IDBI to Mini
Cement Plants in Gujarat and Andhra
Pradesh**

2373. **DR. MAHAVIRSINH HARI-
SINHJI GOHIL** : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Industrial Development Bank of India has stopped financing mini cement plant in Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether there are any restriction^s on the transportation of cement from one State to another State; and