

Payment of Variable Dearness Allowance

4577. SHRI HARADHAN ROY: will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether enhanced variable dearness allowance has been paid to all the officers and employees of various Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, the rate at which the payment has been made;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to make the above payment to all the categories of employees expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d). Central Public Sector Undertakings have been advised through their administrative Ministries/Departments to pay enhanced variable dearness allowance as per the slab system to all their officers and employees w.e.f. 1.1.92 whose pay scales have been revised as per D.P.E.'s O.M. dated 19.7.95. The managements of the respective enterprises are to give effect to the revised pay scales and the variable D.A. Scheme and the administrative Ministries/Departments are to monitor implementation of the same.

Trade with SAARC Countries

4578. SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total value of trade transacted by India with SAARC countries during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to have common market with SAARC countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to improve trade with SAARC countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) Total value of trade between India and SAARC countries during the last three years is as given below:

Year	Value (in Rs. Crores. Prov.)
1993-94	3174.08
1994-95	4370.00
1995-96	6562.33

(Source: DGCI & S, Calcutta)

(b) and (c). Heads of Govt. of SAARC countries have decided in May, 1995 that SAARC countries should work towards setting up a Free Trade Area in the region. .

(d) Steps taken to improve trade with SAARC countries include:

Reduction/removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers, exchange of information relating to bulk imports by government agencies, improvement in transport and transit infrastructure, exhibition of existing trade potential of the Member countries with a view to encourage the import requirements of Member countries from within the region, simplification of visa facilities for more frequent inter-action between the Government and business/trade promotion agencies, seminars and workshops at business level and efforts made by the SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industries to promote economic inter-action within the region etc

Organisation of Trade Fair in Foreign Countries

4579. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to organise trade fairs in other countries; and

(b) if so, the details of the programme fixed for 1996-97 and the main objectives of organising such trade fairs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The details of the programme for organisation/participation in trade fairs abroad during 1996-97 are given in the attached statement. The main objective of organising/participating in trade fairs/exhibitions is to promote India's foreign trade by projecting India's industrial and commercial capabilities to the foreign buyers.

STATEMENT

S.No.	Name of the Event
1.	Royal Easter Show, Auckland (New Zealand), April 3-8, 1996
2.	Corribean Expo Exhibition, Port of Spain (Trinidad & Tobago) April 19-28, 1996.
3.	APLF - Asia Pacific Leather Fair, Hong Kong April 22-25, 1996 (Part-I), April 29 - May 1, 1996 (Part-II).
4.	International Modern Living Exhibition, Tel-Aviv (Israel), July 3-13, 1996