

time to collect complete information. However, the particulars of cases involving amounts exceeding Rs. 50,000/-, where individuals and firms have been prosecuted during 1972-73 (first three quarters) for contravention of the provisions of the Customs Act, Central Excises & Salt Act, Gold (Control) Act, the Direct Taxes laws and the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Mutual Exchange of Tariff Concessions amongst eight developing countries including India

2629. DR. H. P. SHARMA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement on mutual exchange of tariff concessions amongst 8 developing countries including India, has recently been enforced ;

(b) if so, the broad outlines of the arrangements and the mutual concessions to be afforded to the different countries ; and

(c) how far the arrangement is likely to benefit India's trade and industry and the country's economic interest in general?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) and (b). Under the auspices of the GATT Trade Negotiation Committee, India and fifteen other developing countries* signed, in February 1972, a Protocol for exchange of tariff preferences on specified products exchanged among themselves. Under the terms of the Protocol, it was to enter into force on the 30th day after one half of the countries have accepted (ratified) it, and for each Government which accepts thereafter, on the 30th day of such acceptance. Following 8 countries have accepted the Protocol upto 12th January, 1973 and therefore it entered into force as among them from the 11th February, 1973 :

*Brazil, Chile, Egypt, Greece, Israel, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey, Uruguay, and Yugoslavia.

India, Brazil, Israel, Republic of Korea (South Korea), Pakistan, Spain, Turkey and Yugoslavia.

Tunisia accepted the Protocol on the 5th February, 1973 and therefore the Protocol has entered into force for that country from the 7th March, 1973.

India has excluded Pakistan and Israel from the preferences granted by her and similarly India will not get preferential treatment in these two countries.

Under the Protocol, India will receive tariff concessions for rails, steam turbines generators, public telephone sets, etc. in Brazil; tobacco, hydraulic cement, certain medicines, etc. in Republic of Korea ; Sugar confectionery, biscuits, perfumery, etc. in Spain; rubber tyres, wires, cables-refrigerators, certain electrical appliances, etc. in Turkey; certain steel items, refrigerators, calculating machines (cash registers), medical and dental equipments, etc. in Yugoslavia; Vitamins, antibiotics, fertilizers, generators, transformers, electric motors, etc. in Tunisia.

India will accord tariff concessions for items such as olive oil, certain chemicals, aluminium bars, sheets, etc., tools, steam boilers, industrial sewing machines, etc.

(c) The concessions received by India in these other developing countries will give India's exports tariff advantage over the developed country suppliers, and also other developing country suppliers who did not participate in the Negotiations. The concessions given by India are not likely to affect to any significant extent the pattern of imports of these items into India.

Incentive to Indian Entrepreneurs, Engineers and Technicians Abroad to set up industries in India

2630. DR. H. P. SHARMA :

SHRI R. K. SINHA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a scheme has been formulated to attract Indian entrepreneurs, engineers,

and technicians a road to set up industries in India with facilities to import machinery and raw material ;

(b) if so, the road outlines of the scheme and the incentives offered ; and

(c) in which specific fields of industrial development such investment is sought and the total additional capacity in respect of each industry to be raised under this scheme ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) and (b). Import Policy for 1972-73 provides for special facilities to Indians returning from residing abroad who wish to set up industries in India. Details of the Scheme are given in the import Trade Control Policy (Red Book—Vol I) for 1972-73 as amended by Public Notice No. 133-ITC (PN)/72 dated the 14th December, 1972.

(c) The scheme is not confined to any particular industry. It is too early to assess the results of the Scheme. The additional production capacity resulting from the scheme will depend on the number of units set up.

Trade Agreement between India and Sudan

2631. **SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO :
SHRI P. A. SAMINATHAN :**

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Sudan have signed a Trade Agreement for 1973; and

(b) if so, the salient features of the Agreement ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) A Trade Agreement between India and Sudan exists since 1965. Under the provisions of this Trade Agreement, valid for specific periods are worked out from time to time. The last date Arrangement was valid for the period 1st July, 1971 to 31st December, 1972. The new Trade Arrangement is for the period 1st January to 31st December, 1973, and was signed in Khartoum on 7th January, 1973.

(b) The new Trade Arrangement provides for Indian exports worth pounds 23.5 million as against imports from Sudan totalling to pounds 26.5 million. The difference of pounds 3.1 million between these two figures represents the short-fall from the last Trade Arrangement. Under this Trade Arrangement, India would be exporting mainly Tea, Jute manufactures, textiles and engineering goods in exchange for Sudanese Cotton and some small quantities of Gum Arabia and raw hides and skins.

Delay in Payment of Claims to Policy Holders

2632. **SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO :
SHRI RAMSHEKHAR PRASAD
SINGH :**

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Life Insurance Corporation delays payment of claims to policy holders after their policies mature;

(b) if so, whether no interest is paid on the dues for the period of delay ; and

(c) how many policies have matured during 1973 so far and in how many cases payments have been made ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) All attempts are made by the LIC to make payment to policyholders on the date of maturity of policy itself. However, where the policy documents and other papers, duly completed, are not returned by the policyholders in time or where the present addresses of the policyholders are not known, delays do take place in the settlement of claims.

(b) In cases of delay in the settlement of maturity claims, LIC makes *ex-gratia* payment of simple interest at the rate of 6 per cent per annum where the delay is of more than thirty days between the date of maturity and the date of payment. In computing this period of thirty days, the time actually taken by the claimant in complying with the requirements is deducted.