

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA):

(a) and (b). Memorandum, received from the Export Inspection Council/ Agency Employees' Association, Calcutta, had raised a number of issues, which included the following :—

- (i) Status of the Council and the question of giving more autonomy to it.
 - (ii) Inclusion of an officer of the Export Inspection Council as a Member of the Council.
 - (iii) Probe into the working of the Council/Agency.
 - (iv) Providing adequate funds to the Export Inspection Council for constructing its own building at Calcutta and other regions for office and also staff quarters.
 - (v) Increase in the rate of house-rent allowance to the employees of the Export Inspection Council/Export Inspection Agencies to 25%.
 - (vi) Recruitments/Promotions of employees.
 - (vii) Coverage of more items under the compulsory quality control and pre-shipment inspection.
 - (viii) Separation of finance and administration.
- (c) The position in regard to the above *ad-se factum* is as follows :—

- (i) The Export Inspection Council was set up by the Government of India under Sec 3 of the Export (Quality Control & Inspection) Act, 1963 (22 of 1963) to provide for the sound development of the export trade through quality control and pre-shipment inspection. Under Sec. 7 of the Act, the Government of India has established Export Inspection Agencies for carrying out quality control and pre-shipment inspection of commodities covered under the Act. These Export Inspection Agencies have been placed under the Administrative and Technical Control of the Council.
- (ii) The senior most departmental officer of the Export Inspection Council has been recently promoted and appointed as Director of Inspection & Quality Control—Member Secretary of the Council with effect from the 9th June, 1977.
- (iii) It is envisaged that with the recent change as at (ii) above, the Council and the Agencies functioning thereunder will have greater autonomy and flexibility. Government also

propose to review the working of the Export Inspection Council and the Agencies connected therewith. The details in this regard are being worked out.

- (iv) The Export Inspection Council is financed entirely out of Government funds. The Export Inspection Agencies also received Government assistance to meet the deficits in their operational expenses. Considering the resources position, the current economy-drive and the huge capital investments needed it will not be possible to provide funds at present for the construction of office buildings/staff quarters of the Council and the Inspection Agencies.
- (v) The employees of the EIC/EIA are being paid house rent allowance at the rate of 15% of the pay i.e. at the scale admissible to Central Govt. employees. The scale for payment of house-rent allowance at the rate of 15% of pay is comparable to what is admissible to employees of some other similar organisations under the Ministry of Commerce. Government do not intend at present to increase the house rent allowance of these employees to 25%.
- (vi) Recruitments/promotions of the employees of the EIC/EIA are regulated in accordance with the rules framed by the Council from time to time. These rules are now under circulation for the information of the employees.
- (vii) The question of bringing additional items under quality control and pre-shipment inspection is kept under constant review.
- (viii) Administration and finance are being dealt with separately and these two wings report to the Head of the Office of the Inspection Council/Agency main offices.

सोवियत रूस, चीन, फ्रांस, ब्रिटेन और अमरीका के साथ आयात तथा निर्यात व्यापार समझौता

6340. श्री सुभाष आहूजा : क्या वाणिज्य तथा नागरिक पूर्ति और सह-कारिता मन्त्री यह बताने का कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) सोवियत रूस, चीन, फ्रांस, ब्रिटेन और अमरीका के साथ 1977-78 के बिजु अब तक कितने मूल्य के निर्यात तथा आयात के व्यापार समझौते हुए हैं : और

(ख) इस वर्ष के अन्त तक कितने मूल्य के अतिरिक्त व्यापार समझौते किए जाएंगे ?

वाणिज्य तथा नागरिक भूत और सह-कारिता मंत्री (श्री मोहन धारिया) :

(क) जिन देशों का नाम लिया गया है उनमें से केवल सोवियत संघ के साथ ही आयात तथा निर्यात व्यापार करार/व्यापार सलेख हुआ है। इस करार में 1977 के दौरान 1064 करोड़ रुपए के व्यापार कारोबार का लक्ष्य रखा गया है जिसमें 432 करोड़ रुपए के सोवियत संघ में आयात तथा 632 करोड़ रुपए के सोवियत संघ को निर्यात शामिल है।

(ख) इस वर्ष के अन्त तक सोवियत संघ के साथ 1978 के वर्ष पार सलेख पर हस्ताक्षर होने की सम्भावना परन्तु व्यापार की मात्रा बातचीत हो जाने के बाद ही मालूम हो सकेगी।

Difficulty of Commercial Banks to comply with their Quotas of Funds for Food Procurement

6341. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY
SHRI D. D. DESAI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state :

(a) whether of late the commercial banks have been finding it difficult to comply with their quotas of funds for food procurements;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether food procurements would be affected by this shortage of funds ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H.M. PATEL : (a) and (b) The Reserve Bank of India have reported that the composition of the consortium of banks financing food procurement operations of the Food Corporation of India and the State Governments and their agencies was restructured in June 1977 to include, for the first time, 6 foreign banks having deposits of over Rs. 50 crores each. The quota of some of the Indian banks also was raised in proportion to the increase in their deposits. These foreign banks and the Indian banks, whose quota in the consortium was

increased, have been given a phased schedule for absorbing their share of the food credit. It is expected that these banks will absorb the food credit allocated to them in accordance with the phased programme.

(c) No, Sir. To the extent that all the banks are not able to immediately absorb their share of the food credit, the State Bank of India, which is leader of the consortium, carries excess food credit in its own portfolio pending eventual absorption by other banks.

Policy of I. A. re. Trunk Route Flights connecting Delhi, Bombay, Madras and Calcutta

6342. SHRI K. KUNHAMBU: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of Indian Airlines regarding the trunk route flights connecting Delhi, Bombay, Madras and Calcutta; and

(b) whether Government are aware that this direct air disconnection to Madras is being resented and has created lot of inconvenience to passengers ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURSHOTAM KAUSHIK): (a) The basic policy of Indian Airlines regarding trunk route flights is to provide direct air connections at preferred timings, as far as possible.

(b) There might be some inconvenience to passengers on the introduction of an intermediate halt at Nagpur on the direct Delhi-Madras flight (IC-439/440). However, by including Nagpur on this service Indian Airlines have been able to accommodate passengers travelling to and from Nagpur between Delhi and Madras.

Export Demand for Indian Herb Isapgol

6343. SHRI D. D. DESAI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether export demand for Indian herb Isapgol has reached fantastic proportion upto Rs. 25 crores; and

(b) if so, whether any step is being taken to increase its output in the country and process it to obtain higher value for the export of the drug ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): (a) Exports of Isapgol increased to Rs. 16.42 crores during April-February 1976-77
1975-76.