

The matter regarding checking of smuggling of narcotics across the Indo-Pak. border was also discussed at the second meeting of the India Pakistan Joint Commission held from the 2nd to 4th July, 1985 at New Delhi.

Close co-operation with the international agencies concerned is also maintained to curb smuggling of drugs.

A new Act, namely, "The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985" has been brought into force with effect from 14th November, 1985 which, *inter alia*, provides for stringent penalties for drug-trafficking offences.

Decrease in Growth Rate

4915. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is likely to be faced with slower growth rate arising from large debt servicing as also foreign trade deficit ;

(b) the anticipated trade deficit for 1985-86 and debt repayments internal and external including interest payable ; and

(c) if so, the likely decrease in growth rate ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) At the moment it is not possible to provide figures relating to anticipated trade deficit during 1985-86 as a whole. According to Central Government Budget for 1985-86, the debt service liability (amortisation plus interest) on account of external debt and internal debt excluding schemes such as small savings, provident funds etc. would amount to Rs. 4836 crores.

(c) Does not arise.

Companies under 100 Percent Export Oriented Scheme to Withdraw from Scheme

4916. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA :
SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHOSALE :
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated loss of foreign exchange earnings on account of detonding of several companies which had come under the 100 per cent export oriented production scheme as requested by them ; and

(b) if so, what steps are contemplated by Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) Calculation of the estimated loss in foreign exchange earnings on account of debonding of certain approved 100% export oriented units is not feasible.

(b) The Scheme of 100% export-oriented units is reviewed from time to time for ensuring efficient functioning of the units under the Scheme and considering additional incentives.

Loan to Farmers by Nationalised Banks

4917. SHRI CHITTA MAHATA :
SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the farmers have recently met him complaining that their loan applications have been pending with the nationalised banks and others for a long time ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to provide the loans to the farmers in time ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Farmers as a collective group have not met the Finance Minister recently to complain about delays in sanction of loans to them by the nationalised banks. However, persons belonging to various avocations, including farming, meet the Finance Minister from time to time.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Banks have been advised that all loan applications upto a credit limit of Rs. 25,000 under the priority sector should be disposed of within a fortnight and those over Rs. 25,000 within eight to nine weeks.

Unfair Practices in Export of Ginger

4918. SHRI T. BASHEER : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that certain big ginger exporters in Cochin while exporting ginger to USA, USSR Britain etc. mixed Cochin ginger with low quality outside ginger and if so, details thereof ;

(b) whether as a result of this mal-practice the price of ginger crashed considerably in the Cochin export market and if so, the extent to which the price fell ;

(c) whether Government propose to conduct an enquiry into these unfair practices to save ginger growers from market fluctuations ;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to contain unfair practices indulged in by exporters ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) to (e) One complaint against such alleged mal-practice by a ginger exporters of Cochin was received by the Spices Export Promotion Council, Cochin. The Council is enquiring into the complaint. There is a cyclical

fluctuation in the market price of annual agricultural crops like ginger, Exports of ginger are under Compulsory Quality Control and pre-shipment inspection which safeguard against unfair practices.

Visit of Trade Delegation from Malaysia

4919. SHRI P. M. SAYEED : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a trade delegation from Malaysia has recently indicated from their meetings with various Indian Commercial and industrial organisations their willingness to purchase certain items in India ;

(b) the names of the finished and semi-finished items in which they have shown interest ;

(c) the reaction of Government in this regard ; and

(d) whether India also proposes to import certain items from Malaysia ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some of the items in which they have shown interest are iron-ore bellets, coal chemicals for water supply schemes, wheat, fresh fruits, vehicles, machinery and equipments, spares for helicopters. lumpy ore etc.

(c) Government of India's reaction was positive as this would help to reduce the imbalance in trade.

(d) India is importing palm oil, rubber, tin, etc. from Malaysia.

Tandon Committee Report on free Trade Zones

4920. SHRI K. S. RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :