

pleased to state:

(a) whether India is fast losing Japanese shrimp market due to stiff competition from other shrimp exporting countries;

(b) if so, whether Japan accounts for nearly 72 per cent of India's shrimp exports; and

(c) if so, the main reason for India's losing Japanese market and what efforts are being made to capture the market in Japan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) to (c). Japan's import of shrimp has gone up to meet their increasing demand. India has not been able to maintain its share on account of stagnant shrimp production. The total imports by Japan, imports from India and share thereof is given below:-

Year	Japanese import (in tonnes)	Imports from India (in tonnes)	India's share
1983	148628	36912	24.84%
1984	169080	38498	22.77%
1985	182912	36235	19.81%
1986	212805	36727	17.26%

During this period, some shrimp exporting countries like Taiwan were able to step up their supplies to Japan due to their successful shrimp culture operations and meet the increasing demand for shrimps in Japan.

Japan continued to be the principal market for Indian shrimps, accounting for about 74.6 % of India's shrimp exports in terms of value.

Efforts being made to capture the market in Japan include promotion of shrimp farming for augmenting production of cultured shrimps, setting up of prawn hatcheries, promotional efforts through the Trade Promotion Office of MPEDA in

Tokyo, regular participation by MPEDA in the leading Food Fair in Japan and inviting Japanese buyers and Seafood delegation to India.

(Source: MPEDA, Cochin)

#### Trade Gap between India and Soviet Union

7959. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and the Soviet Union have decided to take a number of urgent measures to bridge the widening trade gap; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the main reasons for widening trade gap between India and the Soviet Union?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) and (b). The Indo-Soviet balance of trade which fluctuates from time to time has been for some time now in favour of India mainly due to the lesser generation of rupee resources in favour of the USSR arising from the decline in prices of crude oil and oil products. Both the countries are taking steps to diversify the structure of trade in order to stabilise the trade and increase the volume of trade. New items have been added in the Indo-Soviet Trade Plan for 1987 for imports into India such as coking coal, abrasive goods, selenium, antimony, soda ash, xyelene, PVC, Polystyrene, sawn goods, wood pulp, waste paper, raw hides, etc. Even in respect of existing items, increases have been provided for in respect of imports into India of items such as crude oil, newsprint, synthetic rubber, methanol, polyethelene, fertilizers, rolled steel products, etc. Apart from conventional exchange of trade, other forms of cooperation such as production cooperation, joint ventures, setting up of projects in the USSR by Indian firms, etc. are being explored. Participation in trade fairs/generalised exhibitions, buyers-sellers meetings, exchange of commercial and business delegations and institutional arrangements for promoting contacts

between Indian and Soviet trading and industrial enterprises and export associations are also being encouraged.

#### **Export Proposals of Tea Industry**

7960. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tea Industry had submitted proposals to Union Government for long term tea export strategy in June, 1986, and

(b) if so, the recommendations made by the Tea Industry and how many of them have been implemented by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) and (b). Representations / suggestions have been received from various Tea Traders Associations from time to time for increasing exports of tea. Suggestions made by the Tea Trade in the recent past for increasing exports include request for a long term policy governing exports of tea, need to encourage higher production of quality tea, better credit facilities to exporters, concessional rates of import duty on packaging equipment, permission to utilise foreign exchange earnings for promotional activities abroad, providing funds on liberal terms for packaging factories, change in definition of tea bags so as to include bags upto 30 grams of tea, exemption on exports of tea packed between 1 Kg. and 21 kgs. etc. To encourage higher production of quality tea a number of developmental schemes are in operation which are modified from time to time to suit the requirements. The Tea Board has introduced an interest free loan scheme for the purchase of tea packaging machinery. Exports of packet teas of upto 20 kgs. of weight are already exempted from excise duty. There is no ban on export of tea bags in excess of 20 grams in weight and therefore no change in definition of tea bags is required. In addition, measures taken

in the recent past to increase exports of tea include, higher cash compensatory support on value-added teas, excise rebate of 50 paise per kilogram on export of bulk tea, full rebate of excise duty on exports of packet teas, exemption of excise duty on tea bags, exemption of customs duty on filter paper used in manufacture of tea bags etc.

#### **Export of Foodgrains**

7961. SHRI AMARSINGH RATHAWA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the agricultural products exported during 1986-87 and the value thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that FICCI has requested Government to allot land on a large scale to the exporters in order to increase the export of foodgrains and other agricultural commodities by keeping them safe from weather; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) The main agricultural products exported during 1986-87 were cereals including wheat and basmati rice, tobacco, spices, cashew kernels, HPS groundnut, oil cakes, shellac, processed foods, meat and meat products and fresh fruits and vegetables. As per provisional estimates, the exports for the period April '86 to Feb. '87 for which estimates are available was of the order of approximately Rs. 1500 crores.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The land ceiling laws of the State do not provide for any special dispensation for allotment of large tracts of land to exporters. Allotment of land is made within the overall Government policy of giving preference to the landless and weaker sections of society.