

(a) whether a container with about one hundred live bombs is awaiting disposal at Tughlakabad as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated April 12, 1994;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof ;

(c) the reasons for keeping these bombs here without any action; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government for safe disposal or removal of these bombs immediately ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) to (d) During the month of December, 1993, 283 old and rusted artillery shells were detected in two consignments of heavy melting scrap imported by two Ludhiana based parties from the United Arab Emirates at the Inland Container Depot (ICD), Tughlakabad. On 8.4. 1994, 195 shells loaded in a truck under the Army Escort were taken to the Kot Firing Range for disposal. During the ensuing operations an accident took place which resulted in the death of an Army personnel and injuries to two others.

The remaining shells have been removed from the ICD, Tughlakabad on 18.4.1994. Therefore, as on date, no container with live, bomb shells is lying at the ICD, Tughlakabad. All the shells have been removed to the Kot Firing Range for disposal by the Army experts.

Unshipped Tobacco

7620. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Tobacco Association has represented recently for

clearing the 8.7 million kilograms of unshipped tobacco;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government have already taken up the matter with the Russian authorities through our Embassy for early opening of Letter of Credit for the balance contracted quantity of 8777.3 tons.

Export quota for Textiles to US

7621. SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether export of Indian textiles to U.S. and East European countries is facing ban threat despite GATT negotiations on phasing out textile quota arrangements;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor stating the implications involved; and

(c) the steps contemplated by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Export of Textiles and Cloth to USA under GATT

7622. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN
OWAISI :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has protested to Uruguay Rounds Trade negotiations Committee that USA injecting a head-note allowing Washington to pick and choose the kind of market it wants for different countries;

(b) whether this note is an unilateral interception of certain provisions of the agreement on textile and clothing;

(c) if so, the extent by which India's demand has been accepted; and

(d) the other steps Government have taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (d) The USA included a note in part (i) Section II of its Tariff Schedule linking the concessions in the schedule on textiles and clothing products to the provisions of effective market access. In our statement at the TNC meeting on March 30, 1994 we pointed out that the note is a unilateral interpretation of certain provisions of the agreement on Textiles and Clothing and that India does not accept this interpretation.

Inflow of funds through Euro Issues

7623. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has taken any steps to check the inflow of funds through the Euro-issues;

(b) if so, whether the Government are contemplating to set-up a separate offshore market in Bombay for tapping foreign Institutional Investor (FII) funds;

(c) if so, details there of; and

(d) the impact of developing an offshore debt market on the price of rupee *vis-a-vis* dollar and outflow and inflow of foreign exchange ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Imports and Exports

7624. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the latest available value of exports and imports by the country during 1993-94 in terms of rupees and dollars;

(b) the actual figures for 1992-93;

(c) the percentage of increase or decrease in terms of rupees and dollars over the last year;

(d) the names of Countries to which exports have risen by a percentage higher than a average rise; and

(e) the names of countries with which we have a negative balance of payment with the country's balance as a percentage of the total negative balance of trade ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) India's exports and imports in 1993-94, estimates of which are presently available on provisional basis. comparable data for 1992-93 and percentage variations therein are given below :