

impact as it would ensure the long term health of the industry.

### **Trade Development Board of Singapore**

4475. DR. RAJAGOPALAN SRIDHARAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Trade Development Board of Singapore has opened its office at Madras recently;

(b) whether the Union Government have given its approval for the said office; and

(c) if so, the conditions on which approval has been granted to such Trade Boards of foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c). The Singapore Trade Development Board (STDB) intends to open an office in Madras in November this year for which they would need to seek appropriate approval from the Central Government.

However, in order to facilitate trade and investment links between Singapore and South India, presently the Singapore Trade Development Board (STDB) is being assisted by an Indian national functioning as an Honorary Trade Representative based in Madras.

### **Export of Tobacco**

4476. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO:  
SHRI S. B. SIDNAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tobacco exports has increased during the year 1993-94;

(b) if so, the percentage of increase as compared to the corresponding period of last year and the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of countries to whom tobacco is likely to be exported with its quantity during 1994;

(d) the foreign exchange likely to be earned from its exports during the above period, country-wise;

(e) whether Russia has approached India for importing tobacco during 1994; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) For the period April-January, 1993-94, the increase over the corresponding period in 1992-93 was 22.79% in quantity terms and 0.53% in value terms. This increase was mainly due to (i) higher exports to Russia and Estonia, and (ii) export of sizeable quantities of tobacco to Ukraine, Belarus and Latvia for the first time.

(c) and (d). Item-wise/country-wise targets have not been fixed.

(e) and (f). No orders have been placed so far the current Andhra crop.