

(e) Does not arise.

Fraud in State Bank of Indore

1974. SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA KAUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to State:

(a) whether a fraud was recently detected in State Bank of Indore Branch in Baroda as reported in the Hindustan Times dated November 5, 1995;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to check recurrence of such frauds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL): (a) to (c). State Bank of Indore have reported that a fraud was detected at its Baroda branch in July, 1993. The branch manager had exceeded his discretionary powers in extending certain facilities to M/s. Arvin Liquid Gases Ltd. The officer has been placed under suspension and major penalty proceedings have been initiated. According to the bank, CBI has also registered a case and arrested the concerned official. The Bank has also appointed concurrent auditors in bigger branches to prevent recurrence of such frauds.

[*Translation*]

Contract System

1975. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Ministries where the contract system is still in force; and

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to abolish the same?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

MFN Status by Pakistan

1976. SHRI RABI RAY:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:
SHRI TARA SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Pakistan contin to deny MFN status to india" "appearing in the "Times of India" dated November 16, 1995;

(b) whether the Government of Pakistan has not been considering Indian goods in the most favoured nation list;

(c) whether this issue has also been discussed in the meeting of SAARC Committee of economic cooperation held in New Delhi trecently; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). Since this is a bilateral matter it was not discussed in the meeting of the SAARC Committee on Economic Cooperation. The matter has been taken up, in the first instance; bilaterally with the Government of Pakistan.

[*Translation*]

Trade with Russia

1977. SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE:
KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any trade friction has developed between India and Russia;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to resolve the outstanding bilateral trade issues between India and Russia?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). There is no trade friction between India and Russia. During the period April, September 1995, bilateral trade between the two countries has reached the level of Rs. 2945 Cr. as against the trade level of Rs. 1602 Cr. during the same period in the preceding year. This represents a growth of 84%.