

(a) whether M/s. Pepsi Foods Pvt. Limited is alleged to have over-invoiced the machinery imported by it from USA through M/s. Crunch Barrel Foods Inc., Dallas, Texas, USA;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the case has been investigated by the Government; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and action taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d). Investigations regarding the alleged over-invoicing of import of machinery by M/s. Pepsi Foods (P) Ltd. through M/s. Crunch Barrel Foods Inc. Dallas, Texas, USA have been initiated by the Directorate of Enforcement.

Trade with China

114. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:
SHRI SUKHENDRA SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether new areas and identification of items for import and export between India and China have been worked out recently;

(b) whether during his recent visit to China, any kind of new assurances have been given; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDASPATEL):

(a) to (c). Commerce Minister led the Indian delegation to Beijing for the second meeting of the Joint Ministerial group on Economic Cooperation and Trade, Science and Technology. The two sides recognised potential for development of Trade, Economic and Technological Cooperation and discussed measures needed to be adopted to realise this. On conclusion of the meeting, Agreed Minutes and a Trade Protocol covering the period February, 1991 to February, 1992, were signed.

Both sides agreed to expand and diversify bilateral trade.

The Trade Protocol lists non-traditional items such as oil field. Chemicals, Agro-chemicals, Power generation equipment, tele-Communication equipment, Photocopiers, Railway rolling stock, Computer softwares as items of export interest to India. Coking coal, Oil drilling equipment, Petroleum and petroleum products have been included in Chinese items of export. It has been agreed that China would import more iron ore from India and supply larger quantities of raw silk and silk yarn. Both sides have agreed, in principle, to resume border trade.

Demand for separate bench of Andhra Pradesh High Court at Vishakhapatnam

115. SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any representation demand from the general public of Andhra Pradesh to set up a separate bench of Andhra Pradesh High Court at Visakhapatnam;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the time by which the bench is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposals for the establishment of benches of High Courts away from their principal seats, are entertained only if received from the concerned State Government in consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court. No proposal has been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh in this regard.

(c) Does not arise.

Review of Credit Card Scheme

116. SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the commercial banks were asked by the Reserve Bank of India to review the operation of credit card scheme; and

(b) if so, the main points brought out in the review and steps taken to rectify the drawbacks, if any?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH):

(a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the banks engaged in credit card business were advised by RBI in November, 1990, to prepare comprehensive review reports on the operations of credit card schemes in their banks and place such review reports before their respective Boards. The review reports are required to cover, inter-alia, details of the number of cards issued and outstanding, number of active cards, average turn over per card, average time taken for recovery of dues from the card holders, cost benefit analysis of the credit card business, etc.

(b) RBI has received such review reports from some of the banks engaged in credit card business. These indicate that credit card business has contributed to the overall profitability and customer service of those banks. On the basis of the reviews, the boards of the concerned banks have impressed the need to shorten the time taken for recovery and to closely follow up the overdue accounts.

Indo-China Border Trade

117. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE:
PROF. YADU NATH PANDEY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) when the Indo-China border trade had been suspended and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the Government have decided to reopen border trade with China;

(c) if so, the new areas identified therefor; and

(d) when the Indo-China border trade is expected to be resumed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDAS PATEL):

(a) A Border Trade Agreement was signed with China on 29th April, 1954, for a period of 8 years. With neither country having expressed desire to further extend it, the Agreement expired in 1962.

(b) to (d). India and China have agreed, in principle, to resume border trade. Actual resumption of border trade can take place only after details are mutually finalised between the two countries.