

Trade with Hungary.

7875. KUMARI PUSPA DEVI SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a vast scope for the expansion of Indo—Hungarian trade;

(b) if so, the areas in which Indo—Hungarian trade has been established so far; and

(c) the steps taken to expand trade relation between the two 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) Important areas of Indo—Hungarian economic cooperation include export of Maruti cars, joint venture hotel projects in Budapest and import of boilers for the power station at Neyveli on counter trade basis. Major items of export from India in 1992 were transport equipment, cotton yarn, fabric made up of RGM Cotton including accessories, leather and manufacture etc; and major items of import from Hungary were pulses, organic chemicals, artificial resins and plastic material, electric machinery, and iron and steel etc.

(c) the trade relations between the two countries are being expanded by encouraging participation in trade fairs, organization of specialised exhibitions, exchange of business delegation, and organising market surveys to identify new business possibilities.

A meeting of the India-Hungarian Joint Business Council was held in New Delhi in January 1992 which identified certain areas of trade and economic cooperation. Further efforts are on to identify possibilities of joint, setting up of ware—housing facilities etc.

Amendment to MVA, 1988

7876. SHRI P. C THOMAS : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 (MVA) so as to make 'Public Interest' a criterion for grant of permits for public transport buses; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGADISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b) The Transport Development Council at its meeting held in January, 1993 had recommended that Section 71 of the Motor Vehicles Act be amended to provide for preference to be given for preference to be given for application for stage carriage permits to any other category of persons, as may be determined by the State Government to be in the public interest. This recommendation would be taken into account when amendments to the Motor Vehicles Act are processed.

Rouble Fraud

7877. SHRI TARA CHAND KHANDLWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Enforcement Directorate, Delhi unearthed a major clandestine operation involving the Russian Rouble and the Indian Rupee, as reported in the 'Economic Times' dated February 7, 1993;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARAMURTHY) (a) to (c) The Directorate of Enforcement has come across