

AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED)

(a) The Government have examined the Report entitled "Strategy for Export Growth in Extreme Focus Product Groups—An Agenda for Action" containing the recommendations made by representatives of trade and industry for export promotion of Extreme Focus products.

(b) The recommendations contained in the Report which are both general and commodity—specific, relate to macro economic policy, procedural simplifications, infrastructure improvements and institutional arrangements. Several points pertain to changes in tax policy and better terms for export credit. Some points relate to simplification of procedures and removal of procedural irritants while other points pertain to creation of better infrastructure facilities and institutional framework.]

(c) Several decisions have already been taken in respect of the recommendations which include reduction in interest rate on export credit, directions to commercial banks to increase the availability of credit to the export sector, opening up Inland Container Depots and Container freight Stations to the Private sector, extending testing facilities for packaging materials in the country and simplification of procedures relating to bank guarantees for fulfillment of export obligations. In the Budget for 1993—94, for full convertibility of the Rupee on trade account has been introduced and customs duties have been reduced on capital goods for some of the Extreme Focus Sectors including textiles. Regarding ready-made garments, a scheme for special value—based advance licences has been introduced allowing import of fabrics and embellishments to the tune of 20% of exports. Duty free exemption limit of labels, tag and stickers has been increased from Rs. 1000/- to Rs. 10,000/- It has been clarified that buttons, snap and zip fasteners do not fall under the category of the consumer goods and hence freely importable without licences.

Smuggling of Gold, Silver and Arms

7883 SHRI RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of landing of contraband containing gold, silver and fire arms were detected on the Western coast in the months of January and February, 1993;

(b) the cases in which the neighbouring countries were involved;

(c) whether there has been spurt in the smuggling of automatic weapons; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check the smuggling of weapon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRA SHEKARAMURTHY): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the house.

[*Translation*]

Unemployment

7884 SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of engineers, doctors, educated and uneducated unemployed registered in employment exchanges, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have formulated by scheme to provide employment to more unemployed persons; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) The State-wise number of job-seekers, not all of whom are necessarily unemployed, who were