

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A.
SANGMA) :**

(a) to (e) In a joint statement presented by India on behalf of developing countries members of the GATT at the annual session of CONTRACTING PARTIES in November, 1984, it was indicated that unless the work programme adopted at the GATT Ministerial level meeting in November, 1982 was implemented, any initiative such as a new round of negotiations would be lacking in credibility and devoid of relevance, particularly for developing countries. The Joint Communication while it referred to the commitment of developing countries to achieve genuine trade liberalisation within the framework of the multilateral trading system, stated that developing countries could not accept that the onus for bringing about trade liberalisation be shifted on to them. The Joint Communication called upon the developed countries to implement their undertaking to lift measures inconsistent with GATT and to refrain from introducing new ones which restrict the exports of developing countries and to agree to engage in serious efforts, on a priority basis to implement other, aspects of GATT Work programme of, particular interest to the trade of developing countries. It stated that if those undertakings were accomplished, the developing countries would be in a position to consider, in so far as they were concerned, taking the initiative of proposing specific trade negotiations in GATT, the basic objective of which would be significant enlargement of access for developing countries exports to the markets of developed countries. Such specific trade negotiations must be confined to trade in goods only

**High Level Talks on Expanding
Indo-American Commerce**

3777. SHRI B. V. DESAI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the U. S. Secretary of Commerce is proposing to visit New Delhi during May, 1985 to hold high level talks on expanding Indo-American commerce ;

(b) if so, the likely subjects that will be taken up by the Indian Government with the U.S. Commerce Secretary; and

(c) whether all the issues that are pending and the issues where agreements have not been fully implemented so far by the U.S., will be taken up with the U.S. Government ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A.
SANGMA) :**

(a) to (c) The Secretary of Commerce is scheduled to visit New Delhi during May, 1985 and hold discussions with Commerce Minister.

Agenda for the meeting has not yet been finalised. However, bilateral and multilateral issues of mutual interest might be discussed.

Fall in Rubber Prices

3778. PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether rubber prices have fallen due to lower consumption ; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to safeguard the grower's interest ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A.
SANGMA) :**

(a) Rubber price has declined during the period November, 1984 to January, 1985 owing to fall in consumption and increased supply due to peak production season.

(b) Government is keeping a close watch over the supply and demand position in respect of rubber and its price trend constantly. Imports are allowed only to the minimum extent necessary to bridge the gap between supply and demand and thus the interests of rubber growers, including small rubber cultivators, are protected. Various schemes are also being implemented for the promotion of rubber cultivation in small holding sector.

Production and Export of Raw Silk

3779. PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether production of raw silk has increased considerably ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the quantity of silk exported during the year 1984-85 ; and

(d) the production target of silk for 1984-85 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a), (b) and (d) Yes Sir. Production of raw silk which was 5249 M. tonnes in the year 1981-82 increased to 5748 M. tonnes in 1982-83 and 6423 M. tonnes in 1983-84. The target for production of silk for the year 1984-85 was 6754 M. tonnes.

(c) Total quantity of silk exported from India during 1984-85 (upto end of February 1985) is 154.12 lakh sq. meters (provisional).

Substantial Reduction in Production in Rourkela Steel Plant due to Power Cut

3780. SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether on account of power cut, the production in Rourkela Steel Plant has substantially been reduced ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the steps Government have taken to meet the power scarcity and to improve the production ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Production of Rourkela Steel Plant was considerably affected during 1984-85 due to short supply of power by Orissa State Electricity Board especially during the first three months of the year. As a result, Rourkela Steel Plant suffered a production loss of 1,98,300 tonnes of saleable steel during 1984-85.

(c) To tide over the power shortage, help from neighbouring grids of Madhya Pradesh & Uttar Pradesh was arranged during May and June, 1984. With the onset of monsoon from July, 1984 and with the help extended by Andhra Pradesh Grid, power supply to Rourkela Steel Plant was gradually increased from August, 1984 onwards. However, power supply from Andhra Grid has been suspended from 15th

April, 1985, as they cannot now spare power. Meanwhile some help has been extended by Madhya Pradesh Grid to take care of the likely shortage of power during the current summer season. As a long term measure, a captive power plant of 120 MW is also being set up at Rourkela. All necessary steps, to ensure power, to the extent possible are being taken by continuous review at the Inter-Ministerial level.

[Translation]

Changes in Export Policy

3781. SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to bring about certain changes in its export policy also ;

(b) if so, the nature and the objectives thereof ;

(c) whether Government expect substantial economic gains as a result thereof ; and

(d) if so, the extent thereof and if not, the reasons for bringing about above changes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) The export licensing policy for the 3-year period ending 31st March, 1988 has been announced only on 12th April, 1985.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Withdrawal of World Bank Aid to Sericulture Development Project

3782. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY ; Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has withdrawn its aid to the Sericulture Development Project in Karnataka ;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof ; and

(c) whether this will not adversely affect the export prospects of silk from India, thereby reducing foreign exchange earnings?.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.