

decision regarding viabilities of these mills could be taken.

(e) and (f). Government have yet to receive the recommendations, resulting from these discussions with representatives of workers. However, the average monthly losses incurred by the 8 mills during the year 1985-86 (April-September, 1985) were Rs. 1.70 crores as compared to the average monthly losses of Rs. 2.48 crores during the year 1984-85.

#### Report of International Task Force on Concessional Funds

1032. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has welcomed the report of the International Task Force on concessional Funds which makes out a strong case for increase in official development assistance to low income countries;

(b) whether unanimous report was made by representatives of Governments of all major industrial countries as presented at the meetings of International Monetary Fund and the World Bank at Seoul;

(c) if so, the main points of the Task Force report on soft aid; and

(d) to what extent India will be benefited by this report ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Joint Ministerial Committee of the Boards of Governors of the Bank and the Fund on the Transfer of Real Resources to Developing Countries (Development Committee), which is a forum representing industrialised as well as developing countries, at its meeting in Seoul on 7th October, 1985 considered the report of the Task Force and adopted it.

(c) The main conclusions of the study of the Task Force on Concessional Flows are; (i) most aid has been effective (ii) while public support for aid varied from country

to country, on the whole there has been no decline in public support for aid in developed countries (iii) there can be no substitute for traditional concessional assistance and there is urgent need to increase the volume of concessional assistance (iv) the scope for reallocation of available concessional assistance within the group of low-income countries is limited.

(d) The report may help in the continued flow of larger concessional assistance to low income countries including India.

#### Trade and Technical Co-operation between India and U.S.A.

1033. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that U.S. Government have decided to increase the trade and technical co-operation with India;

(b) if so, whether the U.S. Commerce Secretary has-taxed that American businessmen have now more confidence in the policies of the Indian Government since the Prime Minister spoke to U.S. businessmen;

(c) whether the U.S. Government have undertaken an excise of increasing trade ties with India;

(d) if so, whether an agreement in the regard has has been signed; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (b) According to a report published in Times of India's issue of 16th October, 1985, US Commerce Secretary is stated to have said that American businessmen have now more confidence in the policies of the Indian Government and that whom our Prime Minister spoke to U.S. businessmen during his visit in Juue last, he was very well received.

(a) and (c) to (e). The recent steps taken to increase trade and technical cooperation between India and U.S.A. are given briefly below :

With the objective of promoting trade

and collaboration in advanced technology between the two countries, India and U.S.A. signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Technology Transfer in November, 1984. The Implementation Procedures document of the MOU was signed on May 17, 1985 during the visit of US Secretary of Commerce, Mr. Malcolm Baldrige. Under the MOU, the US Government has issued 66 licences for export of high technology systems to India in the last two months.

The India-US Programme for the Advancement of Commercial Technology (PACT) was signed on August 30, 1985. The Programme promises to provide important links between Indian and American firms in scientific and technical research and development. US AID will provide dollar 12 million over a period of 5 years for specific work on product and process development involving engineering and experimental design studies, manufacture of prototypes, laboratory and market testing and pilot scale trials. PACT will be administered by the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) and will be under two national advisory councils.

#### Decision to opt out of Special Trust Fund

1034. SHRI B.V. DESAI :

SHRI ANAND SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India's decision to opt out of special trust funds of the International Monetary Fund will not affect its eligibility for other funds granted by the Washington-based organisation;

(b) whether India's decision not to avail of its share of \$ 2.7 billion Special Drawing Rights will not have any impact on its share of other IMF funds;

(c) if so, the main reasons for India's decision to not avail of special funds;

(d) the extent to which it will affect India's Plans; and

(e) whether any alternative measures in

regard to plans that were being financed from Special Drawing Rights funds has been found out ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) India has decided to opt out of the utilisation of reflows to the Trust Fund during the period 1985-91. The Resolution of the Interim Committee of the IMF specifically states that this "Would not adversely affect the availability of concessional development finance for low income countries not utilising the Trust Fund reflows".

(b) The total amount of Trust Fund Reflows is estimated at SDR 2.7 billion. Our decision not to avail of these Trust Fund Reflows during to period 1985-91 will not have any impact on our right to use IMF funds under other fund facilities.

(c) to (e). Do not arise.

#### Under Invoicing of Imports of Ball Bearings

1035. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that complaints have been received regarding under-invoicing of imports of ball bearings and this has resulted in the loss of over Rs. 100 crores to Government by way of import duty;

(b) whether Government are aware that the ball bearing industry in the country was threatened by large scale imports through under-invoicing from East European countries; and

(c) whether Government propose to reduce the import duty on ball bearings to prevent under-invoicing of imported bearings ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). Complaints have been received regarding under invoicing of imports of ball bearings, including those from East European countries and are under investigation in the Custom Houses. Wherever necessary,