

Improvement in Trade with Switzerland

9688. SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Switzerland proposes to promote co-operation with India to overcome stagnation in bilateral trade;

(b) if so, whether the representatives of both the countries have met for this purpose; and

(c) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) to (c). The bilateral trade turnover during April-December 1986 increased to about Rs. 378 crores from about Rs. 262 crores during the year 1985-86. There has been periodical interaction between the Indian and Swiss sides at different levels with the objective of enhancing bilateral economic and commercial relations which helps in both commercial exchanges as well as industrial cooperation between the two countries. The bilateral trade trends show a distinct improvement during the last year in comparison with the performance in the preceding year.

Approval to Maharashtra to Export 2 Lakh Cotton Bales

9689. SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have given approval to the Maharashtra Government to export 2 lakh cotton bales; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b). Government have released a quota of

1.55 lakh bales of long and extra long staple cotton to Maharashtra State Cooperative Cotton Growers' Marketing Federation for export during the cotton year 1986-87. The Federation has submitted so far applications for registration of 45270 bales of 1986-87 crop, for export during the current year. The Federation has made shipments of 18,000 bales so far.

Indo-Polish Trade Negotiations

9690. SHRI G.S. BASVARAJU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Poland has shown eagerness to buy more from India;

(b) if so, the reaction of Indian Government thereto; and

(c) whether any negotiations have been made with Poland to expand bilateral trade and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) to (c). Indo-Polish bilateral trade talks were held in December 1986 to conclude the Annual Trade Plan for 1987. The Trade Plan for 1987 provides for a two way trade turnover of about Rs. 500 crores which represents a growth rate of 9.3% over that of 1986. However, Indian exports are planned to grow by 16.1%. The planned major items of exports to Poland are: Tea, pepper, deoiled cakes, iron ore, raw cotton, cotton textiles, raw jute and jute goods, machine tools, textile machinery, xerographic equipment, electronic components, etc. The major items of import from Poland cover equipment for railways, mining machinery, equipment for power industry and coal industry, metal working machine tools, ships and ship engines, steel products, non-ferrous metals, sulphur chemical & pharmaceutical products coking coal, rapeseed oil, etc.

During February, 1987 a large Polish trade mission visited India to study the possibilities of improving trading and industrial cooperation between the two countries and in particular to buy more from India. The team is understood to have submitted a report to the Polish Government on its return. Further action based on the report of the team is awaited.

Losses Due to Sale of Cotton In International Market

9691. SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Cotton Corporation of India and the Punjab and Gujarat State Marketing Federation sold cotton in the international market out of export quotas of cotton announced in October-November, 1986;

(b) what were the ruling international prices of cotton in November, 1986 and at what price was the cotton sold by these organisations;

(c) the amount of loss, if any, incurred due to export during this period by these three organisations and the reasons for the same; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken against the persons responsible for these losses?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Retention of Government Accommodation by Service Personnel After Superannuation

9692. SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government employees can now retain official accommodation upto 8 months after superannuation;

(b) whether this rule will also be applicable to Defence Services personnel; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Defence Service personnel who are entitled to Defence pool accommodation are governed by separate quartering rules, which take into consideration the service conditions of Defence Service personnel and the level of satisfaction reached in matters concerning accommodation.

Losses Incurred By Cotton Corporation of India and Maharashtra State Marketing Federation

9693. SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of cotton purchased by the Cotton Corporation of India and Maharashtra State Marketing Federation in the 1985-86 cotton season:

(b) when was this cotton sold and at what prices;

(c) the loss, if any, on this account and reasons therefor; and

(d) how much losses have Cotton Corporation of India and Maharashtra Federation suffered in 1985-86 due to support price and other purchase operations ?