

(b) In order to increase vigilance on the Indo-Pakistan border, the Government of India have sanctioned 25 additional Bns. of BSF with necessary infrastructure for the Indo-Pakistan border during a period of 5 years.

Trade deficit

4535. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the trade gap estimated for 1987-88 is Rs. 8735 crore despite 17 per cent increase in exports and only 1.4 per cent increase in import;

(b) if so, whether the projected trade gap is likely to affect our economy; and

(c) if so, what concrete steps are taken to augment exports and reduce imports to reduce the trade gap ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : (a) to (c). According to the latest provisional data available for the first ten months of 1986-87, India's exports during April-January, 1986-87 at Rs. 10075.45 crores were 17.0 per cent higher than a level of Rs. 8609.64 crores during the corresponding period of the previous year whereas imports at Rs. 15909.59 crores were 1.5 per cent as compared to Rs. 15671.41 crores. Consequently, there was a decline of Rs. 1227.63 crores in trade deficit from Rs. 7061.77 crores during April-January, 1985-86 to Rs. 5834.14 crores during April-January, 1986-87. At this stage, it is difficult to estimate precisely the trade deficit with which we will end the financial year 1986-87 as also 1987-88.

A series of initiatives have been taken by the Government to promote exports. These are designed to generate surpluses for exports to induce the production of goods contemporary in technology and competitive in prices and to make the exports profitable. Simultaneously the Government has also initiated a series of steps to promote efficient import substitution, particularly in the sphere of bulk imports.

Export of manufactured articles of mongoose hair

4536. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have decided not to allow export of manufactured articles of mongoose hair; and

(b) if so, the details of the policy in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : (a) and (b). Export of manufactured articles of mongoose hair has been banned.

Textile quota to exporters

4537. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the textile quota allotted to different exporters in 1985-86 and 1986-87;

(b) the details of the textile quota utilised by different exporters during the said years;

(c) the steps taken to ensure maximum utilisation of the quota; and

(d) the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) and (b). Under the Multi Fibre Arrangement (MFA), India has entered into Bilateral Textile Agreements with major importing countries viz., EEC, USA, Canada, Sweden, Austria, Norway and Finland under which certain textile products are subject to quantitative restrictions. The quotas are allotted to the exporters under various systems of the Export Entitlement Distribution Policy announced from year to year. A statement of quotas utilized in different countries is given below.

(c) and (d). The following steps have been taken by the Government to ensure maximum utilisation of quota levels :