

(b) if so, the quantity of fish likely to be imported from India by Italy; and

(c) the earnings therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Prior to the imposition of the ban, the quantity of marine products imported from India by Italy during from 1984-85 and 1985-86 was 135 tonnes valued at Rs. 35.37 lakhs and 284 tonnes valued at Rs. 51.55 lakhs respectively. Future export to Italy cannot be predicted precisely at this stage.

Import of sophisticated weapons

4488. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has to depend heavily on imports for sophisticated weapons required for defence;

(b) if so, the steps taken during the past five years to reduce our dependence on imports from foreign countries; and

(c) the percentage of reduction in the import of sophisticated weapons in the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) to (c). Selective import of sophisticated weapons is resorted to as and when the requisite equipment is not available indigenously.

Appropriate measures have been taken to reduce our dependence on imports through indigenous development/production of several systems.

[Translation]

Export promotion of sports goods

4489. SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to boost export of sports goods; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The measures initiated to boost export of sports goods include supply of essential indigenous raw materials as well as imported inputs at international prices to manufacturers for export production besides undertaking promotional activities to help industry to develop products and markets.

[English]

Production of sophisticated Radar by Bharat Electronics Limited

4490. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Electronics Ltd. (BEL) has commenced work on the production of a sophisticated radar to detect low flying objects; and

(b) if so, the details of progress made including time and funds likely to be involved in completing the first phase of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This radar was originally developed by Electronics and Radar Development Establishment, Bangalore and is being produced.

It would not be in the interest of national security to disclose details regarding progress of the project implementation.

Transistor bomb explosion

4491. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any foreign markings were found in the transistor bomb explosions which occurred in different parts of North India during 1985-86 till date;

(b) if so, their details;

(c) whether any protest was lodged with the countries concerned; and

(d) the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) According to available information no foreign markings came to the notice in the transistor bomb explosion cases.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Import of Soyabean

4492. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to import soyabean;

(b) if so, whether the farmers' organisations have expressed their unhappiness over this proposal; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Ships repaired by Mazagon Dock Limited

4493. SHRI C. JANGA REDDY :
DR. A. K. PATEL :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of ships repaired by Mazagon Dock has come down from

about 3,000 a couple of years ago to around 600 now;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether instead of the projected profit of Rs. 14 crores, the company has suffered a loss of about Rs. 13 crores in 1984-85 and Rs. 20 crores in 1985-86; and

(d) the remedial steps being taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) and (b). Ship repair task undertaken by MDL has come down from a maximum ever of 846 ships in 1975-76 to 55 ships in 1985-86. This has been mainly on account of world-wide recession in ship-building industry and MDL's capacity now primarily being committed to building of new vessels, sophisticated warships and other major offshore equipments.

(c) The Company suffered a net loss of Rs. 12.94 crores in 1984-85 as against projected profit of Rs. 16.10 crores and a net loss of Rs. 38.97 crores in 1985-86 which includes Rs. 19.61 crores on account of previous years' adjustments.

(d) As corrective action, Government resorted to immediate removal of the then Chairman-cum-Managing Director and Director (Finance). It was also decided to replace the then Director (Offshore) as well as Director (Shipbuilding). The Company was asked to formulate an action plan to ensure an action plan to ensure build up of systems to avoid recurrence of such a situation. A task force has also been constituted by the Company to look into its operations from the point of view of techno-economic viability, review investment decision in respect of capital projects and formulate guidelines for future growth.

Suggestions of FICCI about functioning of joint ventures

4494. SHRI SOMNATH RATH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :