

[Translation]

Curtailement of Government Expenditure

3830. SHRI SARFARAZ AHMAD:
DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR
TRIPATHI:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRI SOMNATH RATH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take steps to curtail Government expenditure, and if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the broad details in regard to the cut being effected in Government expenditure, and the time by which this cut in the expenditure will be made effective;

(c) whether Government propose to ban the use of airconditioners in Government offices in order to effect a cut in official expenditure and save electricity;

(d) if so, the level of the officers to whom it will apply;

(e) whether Government also propose to withdraw the LTC facility provided to Government employees, if so, whether any orders in this regard are likely to be issued; and

(f) the total amount likely to be saved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) and (b). Government have been continuously making efforts to curb inessential and non-productive expenditure. Efforts are made through work measurement studies conducted by the Staff Inspection Unit of the Ministry of Finance/Internal Work Study Units in various Ministries/Departments to identify and locate surplus staff and prevent creation of avoidable posts.

Measures have also been taken to curb office expenses like those on telephone,

staff car, consumption of petrol, foreign travel and performance of air journey by non-entitled officers.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

(d) Does not arise in view of answer to (c) above.

(e) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

(f) Does not arise in view of answer to (e) above.

[English]

Position of Trade Deficit

3831. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:
SHRI ANANDA PATHAK:
DR. SUDHIR ROY:
SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position of trade deficit;

(b) whether it has adversely affected India's balance of payments position; and

(c) what steps are being taken to reduce the trade deficit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS-MUNSI): (a) According to the latest provisional trade statistics, India's trade deficit during the first ten months of the current financial year i.e. April-January, 1987-88 amounted to Rs. 5425.49 crores as compared to Rs.5834.14 crores during April-January, 1986-87.

(b) Despite the decline in trade deficit during April-January, 1987-88 as compared to April-January, 1986-87, the high level of trade deficit continues to exert pressure on the balance of payments position of the country.

(c) In order to contain the trade deficit the Government have taken a number of