

- ii) identifying opportunities for technology transfer and industrial cooperations ; and
- iii) Identifying sourcing possibilities for exports of commodities to Canada and Vice-versa.

A large number of items for exports from India, like Engineering goods, automobile ancillaries, electronic components, computer software, agro-marine products have been identified and, similarly, for imports from Canada, items like electronics technologies, sophisticated electrical components, telecommunications equipment and technologies have been identified as potential areas. As a consequence of these measures, bilateral trade between the two countries is likely to go up.

OECD Interest in Indian Market

3131. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) member states have shown keen interest in Indian markets;

(b) if so, the steps Government proposed to take advantage from renewed interest of OECD;

(c) whether Government have taken up with OECD countries transfer of sophisticated technologies for space, defence and in other sensitive fields and

(d) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) and (b). Our Trade Policy is non-discriminatory in character vis-a-vis imports from member countries of GATT, including OECD countries.

Our trade relations with these countries are based on the principle of according Most Favoured Nation treatment to these countries.

(c) and (d). Transfer of sophisticated technologies is negotiated and arranged from different countries on strategic and competitive considerations.

Cess Collection by Tobacco Board

3132. SHRI N. VENKATA RATNAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tobacco Board, Guntur (Andhra Pradesh) has been collecting cess from the selling growers and purchasing traders;

(b) if so, the rate of the cess being so collected and the amount so far collected, spent and balances, if any; and

(c) the details of the amount spent with the purpose of its use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) The Tobacco Board has been collecting cess on tobacco sold at the auction platforms from the growers sellers.

(b) Cess at the rate of 1 paisa per kg. of tobacco sold at the auction platforms is collected from the growers sellers as per Section 3 of the Tobacco Cess Act, 1975. An amount of Rs. 38,78,931.38 has been collected so far in five auction seasons in Karnataka and four auction seasons in Andhra Pradesh w.e.f. the introduction of auction system in 1984.

(c) The amount is remitted by the Tobacco Board to the Consolidated Fund of India.