

Computerised Reservation system at Cuttack

530. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to introduce computerised reservation system at Cuttack railway station in Orissa;

(b) if so, by which year such a system would be introduced there; and

(c) the steps taken in that direction?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (c). This work has been included in the Works Programme for 1989-90. The progress will depend upon availability of resources in VIII Plan.

Steps to Boost Tobacco Exports

532. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export of tobacco is declining the recent years;

(b) if so, the reason for this downward trend; and

(c) the steps taken to boost tobacco exports in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The reasons for the downward trend in exports of tobacco are the world-wide slowing down of demand.

(c) Cash Compensatory Support @5%

has been granted on export of VFC tobacco. Efforts are underway to identify and develop the varieties which produce low nicotine and tobacco with flavor which have demand in some of the importing countries. Delegations are being mounted to countries where there is potential for sale of Indian tobacco. The traditional buyers are being persuaded to increase their purchase of Indian tobacco.

Trade with USA

533. SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether exports to United States increased from 1,117 crores in April—August in 1987 to 1,413 crores in the corresponding period of 1988;

(b) whether the imports also increased from 795 crores to 1,095 crores for the same period from United States; and

(c) if so, the reasons for the spurt in both of our exports and imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) There has been an increasing trend in India's exports to USA of Diamonds, Engineering Products including Electronics, Textiles and Garments. Imports from USA to India have increased in the sphere of Cereals, Fertilisers, Iron and Steel Waste, Power Generating Machines and Electronic Equipments.

Steps to Boost Production and Export of Mica

534. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state: