

(b) whether the existing Cardamom Board is going to be abolished;

(c) whether Government have received any representation against the abolition of the Cardamom Board; and

(d) if so, whether the Cardamom Board will be retained while constituting the Spices Board?

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

(b) The existing Cardamom Board will get merged in the proposed Spices Board.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The proposed Spices Board will undertake all the functions presently performed by Cardamom Board.

Plan to Overhaul Distribution of imported Scrap Ships

1689. SHRI R.P. DAS : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the whole system of distribution of imported scrap ships in the demolition market by the canalising agency, the Metal Scrap Trade Corporation, requires thorough overhauling;

(b) if so, whether Government have any plan to do same soon;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWARSINGH) : (a) No, Sir. However, in the guidelines for distribution of scrap ships for 1985-86 a provision has been made for uniform distribution of tonnage amongst all shipbreaking units over a 24 months cycle. Last year's guidelines provided for allotment of one scrap ship to each ship-breaking unit the size of the ship being determined by natural facilities like draft at the site of the shipbreaking unit.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Expansion of Indo-Arab Trade

1690. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the broad outlines of the steps taken to expand Indo-Arab Trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : Broad steps taken to expand Indo-Arab Trade are :

- (i) Identification of new areas for cooperation in the field of joint ventures, project exports, operation and maintenance services etc.;
- (ii) Participation in Trade Fairs and Exhibitions abroad;
- (iii) Exchange of Trade delegations;
- (iv) Conducting Market Surveys in selected areas and in selected products;
- (v) Holding of Bilateral trade talks;
- (vi) Identification of thrust areas where potential for export is high;
- (vii) An Indo-Arab Seminar was held in New Delhi from 1st to 4th May, 1985. It was organised by the Federation of Indian Export Organisations with the active support of the Ministry of Commerce. The discussions in the seminar inter-alia touched on issues in the areas of industrial support, infrastructure, construction and project exports.

[Translation]

Indo-Pak Agreement to Curb Smuggling of Narcotics

1691. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the recent meeting of Indo-Pak Joint Commission both India and