

tions for JCM purposes means recognition for all purposes;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Commissioner of Income-tax Delhi-I has not been granting interviews to the representatives of the Sangh nor replying to its letters; and

(d) if so, the reasons and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Recognition granted to an Association for JCM purposes entitles that Association to participate in the meetings of the JCM as and when held as well as to seek interviews and to correspond with the administrative authorities.

(c) As the office-bearers of various Associations in Delhi are posted in Delhi itself, it is not the convention to have meetings/interviews through exchange of letters. It is very seldom that requests for meeting are made in writing. Whenever the representatives of the Associations seek interview with the Commissioner, it is invariably granted. The representative of the Delhi Aayakar Sanyukt Karamchari Sangh has been meeting the officers, including the Commissioner, at the headquarters off and on. Office-bearers of different Associations are informed about the interviews personally by an officer at the headquarters.

(d) Does not arise.

Supplementary Import Licences for L-Base

181. SHRI R. L. P. VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Haryana Drugs Controller had enquired from the Drugs Controller (India)

about the issue of Supplementary import licences for L-Base recently;

(b) if so, whether Government have examined and permitted the issue of the licences; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKERJEE: (a) Yes, Sir. The State Drugs Controller and Director, Health Services, Haryana made a reference to the Drugs Controller (India), New Delhi in December 1979, with a copy to the Department of Chemicals and Fertilizers, New Delhi seeking clarification with regard to the import of L-Base.

(b) and (c). The item "L-Base" appears in the list of Restricted items in Appendix 5 of import policy, 1979-80, and this position was intimated to the State Drugs Controller and Director, Health Services, Haryana by the Department of Chemicals and Fertilizers, New Delhi. According to the import policy in force, applications for the grant of Supplementary import licences to Actual Users for import of raw materials, components and consumables including the items appearing in Appendix 5 of the import policy, can be considered by the licensing authority on the recommendations of the sponsoring authority concerned.

Trade Deficit

182. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to State:

(a) whether it is a fact that trade deficit has been on an increase compared to that of last year, for the last few months of the current year;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the corrective steps proposed to be taken to narrow the gap?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) (a) and (b). The deficit of foreign trade rose from Rs. 621.03 crores in 1977-78 to Rs. 1064.37 crores (as per revision to date) in 1978-79 and on provisional basis the deficit further went upto Rs. 1181.03 crores in the first 8 months of the current financial year ending November, 1979. The increased deficit is due mainly to phenomenal rise in the aggregate value of imports accompanied by inadequate growth in exports.

(c) The Government is seriously concerned over this mounting trade deficit. It is only through increasing the momentum of our exports that this trade deficit can be minimised. Export promotion would, therefore, be our national objective. For this purpose, the Government *inter alia* proposes to undertake the following steps:—

(1) to identify and remove the various constraints on production such as shortage of power, basic raw materials and fuller utilisation of industrial capacity.

(2) to lay stress on production of items having export potential so that larger export surpluses are available;

(3) to take fuller advantage of managerial talent and advanced technology available in the country;

(4) to encourage export of value added items particularly finished and semi-finished goods;

(5) to solve problems of shipping and port congestion;

(6) to coordinate and strengthen marketing intelligence abroad.

Air facilities for Gorakhpur

183. SHRI C. P. N. SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to build a separate I.A.C. building at Gorakhpur Airport;

(b) is there definite allocation of seats for passengers from Gorakhpur; if so, how many;

(c) are there any plans to link Lumbini Kushinagar with Gorakhpur by air; and

(d) whether a daily Air Service to Gorakhpur is proposed to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK):

(a) As an interim measure, Civil Aviation Department proposes to build a semi-permanent structure to provide facilities for passengers travelling by Indian Airlines.

(b) Yes, Sir. 14 seats are allocated from Gorakhpur to Delhi, 22 from Gorakhpur to Calcutta and 8 from Gorakhpur to Kanpur.

(c) Not at present.

(d) Not at present.

Price Rise

184. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) rate of price rise, (year-wise), from 1972-73 to 1979-80;

(b) what steps, if any, are proposed to be taken to hold price line; and

(c) factors responsible for price rise?