

(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?