

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). In respect of one of the agreements negotiated in the Tokyo Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, namely, the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures, the US Government have invoked the non-application clause *vis-a-vis* India. As a consequence of this action, the US Government will not apply the test of material injury to domestic industry before levying countervailing duties on the subsidised dutiable products imported from India as required under the above agreement. When the USA had initially taken action, countervailing duty proceedings against certain textile products having a large annual export coverage were in progress and it looked as if the US action would cause a serious setback to Indian exports. However, the US Government have subsequently dropped the countervailing duty proceedings against textiles on finding no subsidy. At present the US action is directly affecting the exports of only industrial fasteners from India on which countervailing duty has been imposed without any consideration of injury. The uncertain trade environment created by possible imposition of countervailing duties on other dutiable products without proving injury is likely to have a general adverse effect on India's exports.

Government of India held bilateral consultations with the Government of the USA to resolve the issue, but no mutually acceptable solution could be found. India, has, therefore, filed a complaint before the GATT Council which has on 10 November, 1980 agreed to establish a panel to investigate and report on the complaint.

Insulated Boxes for Marine Products

601. SHRI R. NEELALOHITHADASAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Marine Products Export Develop-

ment Authority is working out a scheme to supply insulated boxes at 50 per cent subsidy to boat owners;

(b) whether Government propose to lay on the Table a statement showing the names of boat owners and the registration numbers of the Boat, the number of boxes supplied under the scheme to him and the amount subsidised for supplies of boxes to him; and

(c) the price per box at present as compared to purchases at the time soon after the beginning of the scheme to supply boxes?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir, as the statement would be voluminous and as Annual Report of the Marine Products Export Development Authority containing information on various development activities is laid on the Table of the House annually.

(c) The Marine Products Export Development Authority purchased these boxes at Rs. 485.00 per box, excluding tax, from the commencement of the scheme in 1978 and the price remains unchanged till date.

Development of Tourist Spots on Indo-Napalese Border

602. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 7422 on the 8th August, 1980, regarding development of birth-place of Vidyapati and other places and state:

(a) whether places like Kalna, Giriasthan etc. are on the Indo-Napalese border, the tourist and pilgrims visiting in one journey these two gates in India and the other two in Nepal in one stretch;

(b) whether the other Centres like Ahilyasthan, Gautamkund, Bisfi,