

deficit is provisionally placed at Rs. 1522.73 crores.

(b) and (c). A series of export promotion measures have been taken by the Government to boost exports. All possible efforts are being made to maximise our exports, product-wise and market-wise both in developing and developed countries.

(d) and (e). From time to time, committees and Task Forces are appointed by the Government to study the prospects in export trade. Periodic meetings are also held with the various Export Promotion Councils/Commodity Boards, etc. to identify the constraints on exports and to evolve suitable remedial measures therefor.

Demand of Export Manufacturing units for Sale of their Products in Domestic Market

1053. SHRI BHIKU RAM JAIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the demand of export manufacturing units for selling their products in the domestic market; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and when a decision is likely to be taken?

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

In so far as such units in free trade zones are concerned, the Government have decided to allow such units to sell 25% of the production in domestic tariff area against valid import licences.

This decision is not applicable to 100% Export Oriented Units outside the zone.

Import and Production of High Density Polyethylene

1054. SHRI BHIKU RAM JAIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that several large international producers have pruned the prices of high density polyethylene to dump it into the Indian market thereby making it difficult for the indigenous industry to face the competition; and

(b) how do Government propose to meet the problem of rising imports and falling production of HDPE?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b). While there has been a representation to this effect from the single Indian manufacturer of this item the available data does not indicate any fall in production as a result of the import policy. Arrangements exist for monitoring the position of imports vis-a-vis indigenous production and demand with a view to taking action as may be found necessary.

Direct sale of Indian tobacco Products Overseas

1055. SHRI BHIKHU RAM JAIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Tobacco Board had sponsored the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade study for promotion of direct sale of Indian tobacco Products Overseas;

(b) whether the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) had submitted a preliminary report on consumption of cigarettes and cigarette smoking into West Asian countries; and

(c) the steps proposed to increase marketing facilities, production of low-nicotine cigarettes and bidis and to increase exports to the Gulf, with details thereof?