

grounding of the aircraft fleet for inspection and rectification of defects. Presently, while some of the aircraft are still under inspection, the remaining are flying. Due to obsolescence of these aircraft, availability of spare parts is a problem. Efforts are made to procure them from wherever available.

Trade Deficit

7551. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :
PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated trade deficit during the year 1982-83;

(b) the figures as compared to the previous three years;

(c) the reasons for the larger trade deficit during 1982-83 ; and

(d) the steps envisaged to cover the gap and to ensure a balance of trade ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI-MATI RAM DULARI SINHA):(a) to (c) The deficit of India's foreign trade from 1979-80 to 1982-83 (April-December) are as below :

<i>Year</i>	<i>Deficit</i>
1979-80	2683.82
1980-81	5849.58
1981-82	5836.54
(updated)	
April-Dec. 1981 (Provisional)	4109.11
April-Dec. 1982 (Provisional)	4059.96

Thus, on provisional basis the deficit of India's foreign trade during April-December, 1982 was somewhat lower than in the corresponding period of the previous year.

(d) With a view to reduce the deficit of foreign trade, a number of steps have already been taken by the Government to promote exports as well as replace imports in some vital areas. These measures include :

1. Exclusion of production for export for the purpose of "licensed capacity" and "dominance" ;
2. Permission to allow production of new articles for export where there is a variation in the article an industrial unit is licenced to manufacture;
3. Favourable treatment to advance and modern technology imports for export production which involve lump-sum payment of royalty;
4. Free Trade Zone like treatment to all 100% export oriented units;
5. To allow automatic expansion to an expanded list of industries for the purpose of increasing production for exports;
6. Expansion of period of pre-shipment credit at concessional rate of interest from 135 days to 180 days in respect of certain items of engineering and other export-oriented industries;
7. Selective relaxation in restrictions imposed on new industrial undertakings in metropolitan cities to such units which produce for exports;
8. The EXIM Bank which has been set up recently, is expected to enlarge the provision of export finance;
9. Exporters of engineering goods are being supplied their requirements of steel at international prices. The difference between domestic price and international price is reimbursed to the exporters after the exports are effected;
10. Streamlining of policies and procedures to reduce delay in the disbursement of duty draw-back;

11. The exploration of the possibility of increasing exports of public sector undertakings;
12. The policy for grant of cash compensatory support has been extended for a further period of three years upto 31st March, 1985;
13. The Import & Export Policy for 1982-83 has been set in the form of the "productivity year" and the imperatives of generating further momentum on the export front.

At the same time efforts are also being made to increase the domestic production in respect of major import items like, POL, fertilizers, steel, non-ferrous metals, oil seeds etc.

Reservation Of Items For Purchase From Small Scale Industries

7552. SHRI PIYUSH TIRKI: Will the Minister of SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the D. G. S. & D. has reserved some items for purchase from small scale industries;

(b) if so, the list of such items;

(c) whether it is a fact that the D.G. S. & D. has a budget of Rs. 1835 crores for purchasing items from S.S.I. units in 1982-83; and

(d) if so, what was the actual procurement from S.S.I. units in the current year ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI VISHWANTH PRATAP SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. 401 items have been reserved for purchase exclusively from small scale industries. In addition, 12 and 24 items have been reserved for purchase of 75% and 50% of the requirements exclusively from small scale industries.

(b) List is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6391/83].

(c) No, Sir. Procurement is made by DGS & D on the basis of indents received from various Departments. Fund are provided by the user Departments. DGS & D does not have any budget provision for making purchases from any particular sector.

(d) During 1982-83 (upto February, 1983) contracts valued Rs. 138.57 crores (Prov.) were placed on SSI Units.

Vacant Posts On Joint Divisional Managers (Hotels)

7553 SHRI SOMIJBHAI DAMOR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) is it a fact that the posts of the rank of Joint Divisional Managers (Hotels) are vacant;

(b) if so, (i) the number of posts; (ii) the number of posts reserved for STs/SCs, and (iii) the number of applications received from STs/SCs;

(c) is it also a fact that the above posts have been advertised; and

(d) if so, where and whether the organisations connected with the tribal welfare have been intimated in connection with these advertisements; if so, the details ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHURSEED ALAM KHAN) : (a) and (b) : Yes, Sir. Presently, 18 posts of the rank of Joint Divisional Managers in the scale of Rs. 1800-2250 are vacant. These are filled from time to time keeping in view the business requirements and the need for effecting economy. Out of the 18 posts, 5 posts, of which two are reserved for SC and one for ST, are under process of recruitment.