

a memorandum to Government analysing the import-export policy for 1983-84; and

(b) if so, the details and Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Federation has represented against certain provisions of the import and export policy for 1983-84 relating to exports of new products, exports to new markets, reduction in the entitlement for Additional licences for Export Houses, grant of repeat licences, restrictions placed on import of OGL items by Export Houses, increase in the minimum export performance level for recognition of Export Houses supply of steel domestically by Steel Authority of India Ltd. against import licences and import of office machines by Exporters.

The suggestions are being examined.

Highest Achievement of a Civilian Employee in Military Engineering Service

2157. **SHRI SUDHIR GIRI :** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the highest position of a civilian employee in the Military Engineering Service can achieve in his service life ; and

(b) why can he not go further in the cadre grade ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN) : (a) The highest position a civilian employee in Military Engineering Service can achieve is :

(i) Chief Engineer;

(ii) Chief Surveyor of Works ; and

(iii) Chief Architect

depending upon his cadre. These posts are in the Senior Administrative Grade Level I (Rs. 2500-125/2-2750).

(b) Military Engineering Service is a composite organisation consisting of two distinct wings, namely Military Wing and Civil Wing. There is only one post higher than Senior Administrative Grade Level I, namely Engineer-in-Chief, who is a Lieutenant General. Since the incumbant on this post has to take care of both the Military and Civil Wings, it can only be manned by a Service Officer.

Balance of Trade with USSR

2158. **SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what was the balance of trade with USSR during 1982-83 and 1981-82 and how far the trade in balance is likely to be reduced by the end of May 1983-84; and

(b) what steps are being taken to reduce the great imbalances ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) India's favourable balance of trade with the USSR during 1981-82 and 1982-83 (April-January) has been provisionally placed at Rs. 349 crores and Rs. 133 crores respectively. Information about the balance of trade by the end of May 1983-84 is not available.

(b) Recently, an Inter-Ministerial Working Group and a Standing Working Committee have been set up to monitor India's trade with Soviet Union and to study problems relating to import of equipment and technology from the USSR. Regular monitoring and review of bilateral trade is carried out with USSR authorities by us with the objective of achieving balanced growth of Indo-Soviet trade.