

Foreign Exchange Reserves

2910. SHRI DIGAMBAR SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the latest figure of India's foreign exchange reserves;

(b) the principle sectors of India's import which are mainly consuming reserves;

(c) the steps being taken to plug major exchange out go and maximise indigenous production of various items which have a high market demand; and

(d) the anticipated savings to be made in the utilisation of foreign exchange reserves during the current year and adopting a new strategy for producing the much needed goods in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PARNAB MUKHERJEE) :

(a) The foreign exchange reserves (excluding Gold and Special Drawing Rights) as on the 30th November, 1983 were Rs. 4991.39 crores.

(b) to (d) The major sectors of India's imports which mainly consume the foreign exchange are petroleum and fertilizers which account for about 42% of total imports. Reduction in the country's dependence on imported POL through higher production and containments in growth of demand is a central feature of the strategy of adjustment in external payments. Substantial reductions have been achieved in imports of POL, steel and fertilizers which would help to improve the external payment position. Necessary adjustments have been made through the instrument of budget to raise the level of infrastructure particularly the energy sector which is of critical viability of external payments.

The level of reserves is continuously kept under review with a view to ensuring that the country's commitments with regard to debt service and our requirements of goods and services are met.

Export of White Sugar to China

2911. SHRI DIGAMBAR SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any deal for the export of white sugar to China has since been struck; and

(b) if so, the board details thereof, the quantity to be exported and the mode of payment and the agency, through which this will be canalised ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI-MATI RAM DULARI SINHA) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Airlinking of Agra, Lucknow and Varanasi

2912. SHRI NIHAL SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh had written a letter to the Central Government on 4th March, 1983 regarding linking of Agra, Lucknow and Varanasi by air service;

(b) if so the action taken by the Central Government thereon; and

(c) if not, the reasons there for ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Indian Airlines, in its Winter schedule effective from 1-11-1983, has airlinked Agra to Varanasi with Lucknow.

कपड़ों और हीजरी के सामान का निर्यात

2913. श्री निहाल सिंह : क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :