THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) Companies/Undertakings in the Private/Public Sector are selectively permitted to raise commercial loans abroad mainly for financing the requirements of projects. Such borrowings are permitted after taking into account, inter alia, the foreign exchange requirements of the project, the availability of consessional funds from bilateral and multilateral sources, and keeping in view the need to keep the debt service liability within prudent limits.

Mirage-2000 Aircraft

SHRI B.V. DESAI : 2962. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a team of Indian Air Force test pilots and engineers visited France to set up a Joint organisation with the French Force for the induction of the Mirage-2000 Multi-role fighter aircraft into the IAF :

(b) if so, whether according to the latest schedule, the first batch of 40mirage-2000 aircrafts ordered by India would be flown to an IAF air base early in 1985 ;

(c) if so, main aim of the IAF team to visit France ;

(d) to what extent the team has assessed the situation and whether any report has been submitted to Government : and

(e) if so, whether mirage-2000 aircraft will be supplied to India on schedule ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) No, Sir. However, an IAF project team has been stationed in France to oversee. the programme of manufacture and supply of Mirage-2000 to India.

(b) and (e) Supply of Mirage-2000 aircraft from France is expected to commence during 1984-85 as planned.

(c) and (d) In view of (a) above. do not arise.

Trade Deficit

2963. SHRI B.V. DESAI : SHRI UTTAM RATHOD :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India's exports during 1982-83 touched Rs. 9000 crores as against Rs. 7803 crores achieved in 1981-82:

(b) if so; whether according to the latest figures available, the country's exports during 1982-83 are placed at 88441 crores and imports at Rs. 14261 crores thereby showing a trade deficit of Rs. 5447 crores :

(c) if so, what were the total export during the current financial year during April-June, 1983;

(d) whether they were on the deficit side or on the increase side; and

(e) what steps are being taken by Government to remove the trade deficit which is on the high side ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) to (e) A statement is attached.

Statement

(a) and (b) The final figures of foreign trade for the year 1982-83 are not yet available. However, according to the latest updated available da-te, India's overall exports during 198283, amounted to Rs. 8807.60 crores and imports to Rs. 14274.60 crores with. the deficit of Rs. 5467.00 crores 600 (c) and (d) On a provisional basis, exports during April-June, 1983, totalled Rs. 2013.57 crores thereby showing an increase of 41.2% over the provisional figure of Rs. 1811.50 crores in the corresponding period of the previous year. The deficit in foreign trade during April-June, 1983 was lower than in the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

(e) Export Promotion is a continued process. Various export promotion measures are already in operation which include removal of Licensing constraints on export production, establishment of EXIM Bank, setting up of 100% export oriented units, easier access to import of inputs and upgradation of technology, particularly for export production, and extension of certain fiscal concessions on exports.

The Import and Export Policy for 1983-84 has been so formulated that it is both export oriented and production oriented. There are many new features in the policy to promote exports and save avoidable imports as far as possible.

The 100% export oriented scheme introduced in 1981 is receiving an encouraging response, and export from existing Free Trade Zones, Kandla and SEEPZ are also picking up well. With a view to further promoting exports the Government have recently decided to set up four more Free Trade Zones in Cochin, Madras, NOIDA and Falta. The facility of Cash Compensatory Support has been extended to 16 new items after 1.10.1982.

Case Referred to Court by Owners of Textile Mills Taken Over Recently 2964. SHRI MOHANLAL PATEL : SHRI MOHD. ASRAR AHMAD : SHRI NAVIN RAVANI :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that owners of Textile Mills which have been recently nationalised have gone to the Court against the taking over of these mills; and (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The owners of five mills i.e. M/s. Elphinston, Jam Manufacturing, New City of Bombay, Shri Madhusudan and Finlay Mills and Sitaram Mills have filed writ petitions against the take over. Govt. is opposing the writ petitions.

समाजवादी देशों के साथ व्यापार

2965. श्री रामावतार झास्त्री : क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार समाजवादी देशों के साथ व्यापारं की मात्रा दिन प्रतिदिन बढ़ा रही है:

(ख) यदि हां, तो जिन समाजवादी देशों के साथ भारत सरकार आयात-निर्यात व्यापार कर रही है, उसके लाभ क्या हैं;

(ग) क्या पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान उन देशों के साथ व्यापार में वृद्धि हई है;

(घ) यदि हाँ, तो प्रत्येक देश के साथ वार्षिक-व्यापार में हुई वृद्धि का ब्यौरा क्या है ?

वाणिज्य संत्रालय से राज्य संत्री (श्रीमती राजबुलारी सिन्हा): (क) तथा (ग) गत तीन वर्षों में समाजवादी देशों के साथ व्या-पार की मात्रा में वृद्धि हुई है।

(ख) भारत के पूर्व यूरोप के निम्न-लिखित समाजवादी देशों के साथ व्यापार सम्बन्ध हैं:—

1. सोवियत संघ।

2. चैकोस्लोवाकिया ।

3. जमन लोकतंत्रीय गणराज्य ।

4. पोलैंड।

5. रूमानिया ।

6. हंगरी ।

7. यूगोस्लाविया ।

8. बुल्गारिया ।

(घ) प्रत्येक समाजवादी देश के साथ व्यापार का एक विवरण संलग्न है।