

tion Councils and Chambers of Commerce was held in New Delhi in the 2nd week of December, 1972;

(b) if so, the subjects discussed in the meeting?

(c) whether some participants had made observations that China could pose a threat to India's exports; and

(d) if so, whether positive measures are being contemplated to strengthen India's exports?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following main subjects were discussed in the Meeting:—

(i) review of export performance during 1972-73 and measures necessary for achieving targets fixed for the year;

(ii) organisational problems of export promotion councils including the need for foreign and regional offices;

(iii) measures required to maintain and increase India's exports to U.K. and E.C.M. consequent on Britain's entry into EEC from 1st January, 1973;

(iv) Operation of GSP on India's exports and the experience gained so far; and

(v) commodity-wise export problems including those connected with the Government's scheme of canalisation and turnkey projects.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir.

Seminar on Trade with East Europe

713. SHRI P. M. MEHTA:
SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Seminar on Trade with East Europe was held in New

Delhi in the first week of December, 1973;

(b) if so, whether the Seminar suggested the need for better guidance from Commercial representatives of Indian missions in the region; and

(c) whether the Seminar also suggested that Commercial representatives should be given professional training to enable them to do the work for the Indian Trade delegations going abroad, if so, Government's reaction thereto?

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

(c) It was recommended at the Seminar that the Commercial Representatives should be given professional training before being posted abroad. *inter alia*, to enable them to better assist visiting delegations of Indian exporters. The recommendations which were received on 20th February, 1973 are being examined by the Government.

Trade Agreement with U.S.S.R. for Import

714. SHRI P. M. MEHTA:
SHRI P. GANGADEB:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Soviet Union has signed an agreement on December, 16, 1972 with an importing firm in India for supply of Rs 80 lakh worth of printing machinery for newspapers; and

(b) if so, the value of the contract signed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) and (b). Government had no direct information regarding the agreement referred to. However, on making enquiries, it is understood that on 16th December, 1972, one and on 15th December, 1972, five newspaper establishments had