

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

concluded contracts with Techmashe-export, Moscow, for the import of printing machinery worth about Rs. 8 lakhs and Rs. 79 lakhs respectively.

Seminar on Textiles

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

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a two-day Seminar on textiles was held in New Delhi in the 2nd week of December, 1972;

(b) if so, whether the seminar was organised by the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade; and

(c) whether the Seminar has decided to constitute a high level group under the Indian Institute of foreign trade, and if so, the functions thereof?

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

(c) Yes, Sir. The Seminar recommended a High Level Group under the convenorship of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade be set up to recommend to the Government modalities, norms and operational details of financing modernisation of textile industry through a special financial corporation.

Alleged Discrimination against Harijans in the S.B.I. New Delhi

716. SHRI JHARKHANDE RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 803 on 4th August, 1972 and state:

(a) whether investigation by the State Bank of India into the allegations about the discrimination against Harijans in the State Bank of India, Ajmal Khan Branch, New Delhi has been completed;

(b) if so, with what result;

(c) whether Government have received further communications from the 'Shoshit Samaj Ekata Committee', New Delhi dated 1st January, 1973; and

(d) if so, the points raised therein, and the decision taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN):

(a) and (b). State Bank of India have informed Government that the investigations carried out by them do not reveal any discrimination against Harijans in the State Bank of India, Ajmal Khan Road Branch, New Delhi.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The representation from the Shoshit Samaj Ekata Committee besides referring to the allegations about discrimination against Harijans in the State Bank of India, Ajmal Khan Branch, New Delhi, also contains suggestions about the procedure for getting names from Employment Exchanges, etc. for reserved vacancies.

Government have already issued detailed instructions to the Bank, regarding the filling up of reserved posts for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes candidates.

Import of Cocoa Nut and Areca Nut

717. SHRI B. V. NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity in tonnes and value in Rupees of Cocoa Nut and Areca Nut imported into this country during the years 1971 and 1972; and

(b) what is the quantity in tonnes of these two commodities that is likely to be imported during the year 1973?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) Import figures for the calendar years 1971 and 1972 are not available as foreign trade statistics are compiled on financial year-