

38,271 tonnes of marine products estimated at Rs. 58.13 crores were exported from this country during January, 1972 to December, 1972.

Under the Import Policy for Registered Exporters of Fish and Fish Products, finishing hooks, packaging materials, tinplates, spare parts for marine diesel engines, refrigeration machinery, canning machinery, etc., are allowed to be imported.

Decline in Exports due to Uncertainty in Currency Value

5359. DR. H. P. SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as reported in the 'Economic Times' of March, 6, 1973, exporters have lately turned shy of booking order and have been deferring current exports, in view of the continued suspension of forward cover by the Reserve Bank and because of uncertainty in the currency values of pound, mark, dollar or yen following the devaluation of the dollar;

(b) if so, how far the exports during February-March this year have fallen short of those during last year on this account, and the major items the exports of which have received a set back; and

(c) the steps taken to revive normalcy in trade?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) to (c). It is difficult to assess the impact of fluctuations in major world currency values on our exports with any degree of precision. Export statistics for Feb.-March, 1973 are not yet available. Forward purchases of Sterling by the Reserve Bank which were suspended with effect from 13th February, 1973 were resumed for a period upto 6 months with effect from 8th March, 1973. The rates for forward purchasing of sterling were the same as were prevailing before 13th February, 1973.

This measure was intended to afford a certain degree of hedging facilities to exporters in order to avoid any adverse effects on exports.

Decline in Export to Hard-Currency Areas

5360. DR. H. P. SHARMA:
SHRI JAGANNATH RAO
JOSHI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether following dollar devaluation and consequent increase in freight rates, the exports to hard-currency areas have been hit hard;

(b) if so, the item-wise details of shortfall in exports during the intervening period; and

(c) the steps taken to improve the position?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) The US Dollar was devalued by 10 per cent on 12th February, 1973. The Pound Sterling continues to float and since the Rupee Sterling ratio has not been changed, the rupee has correspondingly appreciated by the same percentage *vis-a-vis* the US Dollar as the Sterling. The Rupee has depreciated by the same percentage *vis-a-vis* the Japanese YEN and German Deutsche Mark as the Sterling. As a result of Dollar Devaluation and consequent increase in freight rates our exports to hard currency area are likely to be affected in the following manner:

(i) There is no adverse effect on our exports to the UK market as also our exports which are invoiced in sterling as the Sterling Rupee rate has not changed.

(ii) Our exports to the USA may receive a setback on account of the marginal appreciation of the Rupee *vis-a-vis* US Dollar.