

Visit by Trade Teams to S.E. Asia and Australia

9836. SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Trade teams were recently sent to South East Asia and Australia to explore the possibilities of increasing exports of Indian goods to those markets; and

(b) if so, the extent to which the objective is likely to be achieved?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) and (b). During 1974, a Delegation from the Ministry of Heavy Industry led by its Secretary visited Malaysia and Singapore and reported good prospects for the export of Indian Engineering equipment, turnkey projects and consultancy services as well as for setting up of joint ventures in Malaysia and Singapore. Specific possibilities were identified in the fields of Hydro Electric Projects including transmission towers, switch-gear and power transformers, thermal power units, sponge iron plants and oranes for shipyards and cement plants. To pursue these possibilities further, a team of experts was sponsored by the Ministry of Heavy Industry to Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand. The report of the Team is awaited.

In 1974, the Federation of Indian Export Organisations sponsored two Delegations, one to Japan, South Korea and Thailand and the other to Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Philippines. Their Reports are also awaited.

Expansion of trade between India and Mauritius

9837. SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Commerce Minister of Mauritius has recently discussed with him the scope for expanding trade between Mauritius and India; and

(b) if so, what are the broad features thereof?

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

(b) Both the sides reiterated their desire to strengthen mutual trade and commercial relations and that all possible efforts in this direction should be made by the two Governments.

Imports from U.S.A.

9838. SHRI BANAMALI BABU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the estimated value in the Indian currency of the articles proposed to be imported from USA during the current financial year?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): It is not possible at the stage to estimate the value of our imports from U.S.A. during the current financial year.

Nationalisation of Coir Export Trade

9839. SHRI C. JANARDHANAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Coir Corporation has to complete with the private traders in its export trade, who can influence the