

Rise in Trade with East Europe

1394. SHRI B. S. BHAURA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a big rise in trade with East Europe;

(b) if so, the broad features thereof; and

(c) the particulars of items exported to each of the east European countries?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) to (c). India's trade with East European countries has registered steady expansion over the last 10 years. The total trade turnover between India and these countries has increased from a level of about Rs. 302 crores in 1963 to about Rs. 700 crores in 1973. Trade with each of these countries is conducted on the basis of annual trade plans which are prepared within the framework of long-term Trade and Payments Agreements with them. All payments are made in non-convertible Indian rupees and trade is bilateral and balanced. The pattern of trade is, more or less, the same with each of these countries. Principal items of our import are: fertilizers, steel and steel products, non-ferrous metals, industrial raw materials like sulphur, asbestos, etc., petroleum products, chemicals machinery and equipments, etc. Principal items of our export to these countries are: oil cakes, jute, leather,

cotton textiles, tobacco, cashew kernels, tea, coffee, spices, various machinery items, machine tools, footwear, drugs and pharmaceuticals, processed mica, etc.

New Air Services between India and Malaysia

1395. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Malaysia have agreed to operate new air services between the two countries; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) and (b). An Air Services Agreement was signed with Malaysia on 22nd May, 1974, which provides that the designated airlines of India and Malaysia may each operate up to two services a week with aircraft of their choice on the routes specified in the Annex to the Agreement. Presently, Air India operates one service through Kuala Lumpur and the Malaysian Airlines System operates one service a week to Madras.

Non-Availability of Raw Materials for Leather Industry

1396. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN:
SHRI C. K. JAFFER
SHARIEF:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether non-availability of raw materials is a hindrance to the finished leather industry;

(b) whether Government are satisfied with the performance in the matter of export of leather; and

(c) if not, the efforts Government have made in this regard to improve this industry?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) No, Sir. As the Government have banned the export of raw hides and skins and also brought the export of semi-processed hides and skins under quota restriction with effect from 1st August, 1973, availability of raw materials to the finished leather industry will not be any constraint.

(b) While the volume of export of semi-processed hides and skins is satisfactory, export of finished leather has not increased adequately.

(c) Government have taken a number of steps to improve the industry. The holders of licence for producing semi-processed hides and skins have been permitted to switch over to the production of finished leather automatically without amendment or a fresh licence. A list of machines has been notified after clearance by the D.G.T.D., so that producers can easily obtain import licences. An intensive programme exclusively for the leather industry has been conducted by the National Small Industries Corporation. Government are also actively considering other steps.

केरल कर्नाटक सरकारों द्वारा जारी किये जाने वाले चंकों के संबंध में भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक द्वारा बंगलौर स्थित अपने कार्यालय को दिये गए निदेश

1397. श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक ने बंगलौर स्थित अपने कार्यालय को केरल और कर्नाटक सरकारों द्वारा जारी किये गये बैंकों को स्वीकार न करने का निदेश दिया है;

(ख) क्या 3 मई, 1974 के बाद बैंक में प्रस्तुत किये गये उक्त राज्य सरकारों के अनेक चंकों को भुनाया नहीं जा सका;

(ग) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(घ) इस संबंध में स्थिति को सामान्य करने में समय पर क्यों कार्यवाही नहीं की गयी ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री के. ए. गणेश) : (क) और (ख). इन राज्यों द्वारा लगातार ओवरड्राफ्ट लिए जाने के कारण भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक को 4 और 8 मई 1974 के बीच केरल के मामले में तीन कार्य दिवसों के लिए और कर्नाटक के मामले में एक कार्य दिवस के लिए तब तक भुगतान करना स्थगित करना पड़ा जब तक कि इन राज्यों ने केन्द्र से सहायता लेकर अपने ओवरड्राफ्ट की रकम साफ नहीं कर दीं ।