

State Government's proposal for Free Trade Zone in the State;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) whether the idea for Free Trade Zone at Dum Dum near Calcutta has been abandoned?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The proposal for Free Trade Zone at Dum Dum near Calcutta is under Government's consideration.

अन्य देशों से वस्तुओं का आयात

614. श्री भारत सिंह चौहान :
वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) उन देशों के नाम क्या हैं जहाँ से गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान भारत, वाराणसी के पुर्जों टैरिफिन के अन्तर्गत व टैरिफिन के अन्तर्गत, टैरिफिन मीट व उनके पुर्जों, एयर कंडीशनर व उनके पुर्जों, टेप रिजॉर्डिंग एवं अन्य विभा-सिता की वस्तुएं आयात की गईं और प्रत्येक देश में किसनी मात्रा में वस्तुओं का आयात हुआ ; और

(ख) उक्त आयातों के लिए कितनी विदेशी मुद्रा खर्च की गई और भुगतान किस प्रकार किया गया ?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री विश्वनाथ प्रताप सिंह) : (क) और (ख) वाराणसी विशेष रूप से उल्लिखित अन्य मदों के देशवार आयातों को दर्शाने वाला एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रखा दिया गया है। (मन्त्रालय में रखा गया। देखिए संख्या एल० टी० 8476/74)।

Supply of imported chemicals to Plastic Industry by S.T.C.

615. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the plastic industry which uses 2440 LS—8

imported chemicals as raw materials is getting these raw materials from the State Trading Corporation at very high costs; and

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken to supply these materials to the industry at a reasonable rates?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH).

(a) and (b). Chemicals imported by STC for the plastic industry are supplied to the manufacturers of plastic goods at prices fixed on the basis of the guidelines laid down in this behalf by the Pricing Policy Committee headed by the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports. These prices have been higher in some cases due to high cost of imported materials.

S T. C. is making efforts to supply materials at best possible prices in the circumstances.

Raids by Income Tax Authorities

616. SHRI D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Income Tax Authorities during a raid on 24th September, 1974 seized unaccounted stocks of diesel engines and irrigation pumps from a godown of a leading firm in Kanpur; and

(b) if so, a brief account thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKERJEE): (a) and (b) Income-tax authorities found oil engines, pumps and other machinery spares in the course of searches conducted in two cases at Kanpur during the period 21st September to 26th September, 1974. In one case, 42 oil engines, pumps and machinery spares valued at Rs. 5.5 lakhs were found, out of which stock of oil engines, pumps etc. for Rs. 4 lakhs were kept under

prohibitory orders under section 132 (3) of the Income-tax Act, 1961. In the other case, 43 oil engines, pumps and other machinery spares for Rs. 1.92 lakhs were found out of which oil engines, pumps etc., valued at Rs. 1.31 lakhs were put under prohibitory orders.

In both the above cases, the items detained under section 132 (3) were subsequently released on furnishing of adequate security by the parties concerned.

Branches of Nationalised Banks in Goa

617. SHRI PURUSHOTTAM
KAKODKAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of branches of Nationalised banks in Goa; and

(b) the total amount of loans advanced by them during 1973-74?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): (a) As at the end of June, 1974 the public sector banks, including the 14 nationalised banks, had 129 offices in the Union Territory of Goa, Daman and Diu.

(b) According to the latest available data, which relate to end December 1973, the outstanding advances of public sector banks in the Union Territory of Goa, Daman and Diu, totalled Rs. 43.07 crores.

Import of medium staple cotton from U.S.S.R.

618. SARDAR SWARAN SINGH SOKHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are going to import four lakh bales of medium staple cotton, both from the Soviet Union on rupee payment and the United States of America, to meet the country's requirements;

(b) the reasons why the requirement of the same could not be met indigenously; and

(c) the difference in prices charged by the two countries, foreign exchange involved for imports from U.S.A. and the reasons of not importing the medium staple cotton from one country only?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):

(a) to (c) While Government have not decided upon a specific volume or source of cotton imports for the current year, it has been felt that on the basis of our assessment the shortfall between demand and indigenous cotton availability, during 1974-75 may be of the order of 9 to 10 lakh bales. Some import of medium staple cotton may, therefore, have to be arranged to meet the requirements of export production of cotton textiles. The sources of import of cotton will depend upon various commercial factors including availability, prices, suitable financial arrangements, etc.

Branches of Nationalised Banks in Punjab

619. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of branches of nationalised banks in Punjab, particularly in Amritsar; and

(b) the total amount of loans advanced by them during 1973-74?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): (a) As at the end of June, 1974, public sector banks, including the 14 nationalised banks had 611 branches functioning in the State of Punjab. Of these 78 were located in Amritsar District.

(b) According to the latest available data, which relate to end December, 1973, outstanding advances of public sector banks in Punjab State totalled Rs. 162.73 crores.