

- (iv) Delegations of Engineering Export Promotion Council, Project Equipments Corporation, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry visited some Latin American Countries for exploring the market to step up exports.

As a result of market studies, some joint venture possibilities may emerge in respect of engineering goods, steel plants, mining operations, textiles and machine tools. The concerned parties have been in touch with each other for possible collaboration.

Participation of U.S. investors in export oriented industries

694. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state whether he stated at Madras on 21st September, 1975 that the Central Government is considering to allow majority participation by US investors in complete export oriented industries?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI-MATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): The Minister of Finance stated in Madras that it was quite likely that in completely export oriented industries, a majority holding by foreign companies might be allowed, on merits of the case. This would apply to U.S. Companies as well.

Streamlining of tea auction system in Calcutta

695. SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is considered opinion to streamline tea auction system in Calcutta so that there would be no unusual delay in the handling of large consignments of tea; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b), No, Sir. The question of conducting tea auctions in a way in which large consignments of tea can be handled without undue delay is under constant review.

Export of Kashmiri apples to Persian Gulf Countries

696. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether prospects of exporting Kashmiri apples to Persian Gulf countries have been explored; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Hindustan Lever Ltd.

697. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hindustan Lever Limited hold 47.5 per cent of the equity capital of M/s. Sharpedge Limited; and

(b) whether Unilever, London hold as much as 85 per cent equity capital of Hindustan Lever Limited?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI-MATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Visit of a non-officials Trade Team to U.S.A.

698. SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a non-officials trade-team recently visited U.S.A.;