

Import of Books

2290. Shrimati Maimoona Sultan: Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1490 on the 3rd September, 1965 and state:

- (a) whether the Committee set up to advise Government on the import of books has submitted its report;
- (b) if so, its main recommendations;
- (c) Government's decisions thereon; and
- (d) how far the import of books this year will be reduced in comparison with last year and what will be the level of imports next year in the light of these recommendations?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). The Committee have recommended that:—

- (i) A ceiling of foreign exchange of at least of Rs. 1.5 crores may be released for import of books and periodicals during the current year.
 - (ii) Out of Rs. 1.50 crores, a ceiling of Rs. 40.0 lakhs should be placed at the disposal of Ministry of Education for allocation to Universities, Educational Institutions etc.
 - (iii) Out of the balance of Rs. 1.10 crores, a ceiling of Rs. 1.0 crore would be required for issue of quota licences at 50 per cent quota as already announced in the current Red Book.
 - (iv) The balance of Rs. 10.0 lakhs should be utilised for allowing imports of permissible Magazines, Journals, Periodicals in the case of only such established importers who have been importing such publications in the past.
- (c) The above recommendations of the Committee are under consideration and steps are being taken to get the necessary foreign exchange re-

leased and further action can be taken only after the foreign exchange is released.

(d) Upto August, 1965, books and periodicals worth Rs. 155.62 lakhs have been imported into India against the figure of Rs. 148.50 lakhs during the corresponding period in 1964. It is considered that during 1965, imports of books will not be very much reduced as compared to the total imports worth Rs. 330.83 lakhs during 1964 because a good number of licences issued during the last period will be utilised during the current period. It is too early to visualise the level of imports next year as it would depend upon the foreign exchange position prevailing at that time. In fact the Committee was set up to review the import policy for books and publications as announced for current period and recommend modifications, if any, and not to go into the question of imports next year.

European Economic Community

2291. Shrimati Maimoona Sultan: Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether a report has been prepared by the European Economic Community on India's commercial relations with that Community;

(b) if so, the salient features of that report; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto, and how the recommendations, if implemented, would affect India's trade with the Community?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). At the invitation extended on behalf of India's Parliament a delegation of members of the European Parliament visited India between 9th and 14th December 1963. Following this the Commission on Foreign Trade of the European Parliament was given the task of preparing an interim report on trade relations between the European Economic Community and India

The interim report by Mr. G. L. Moro was presented to the European Parliament on the 23rd November, 1965.

The report briefly describes the efforts made by the India's Economic Mission at Brussels to establish bilateral contacts with the E.E.C. Commission with a view to discussing trade relations between India and the Community. It analyses the development efforts of India through series of Plans and emphasises the magnitude of the financial burden which India has to bear in implementing fourth Five Year Plan and the need for providing not only financial assistance but help in the development of trade relations for enabling India to regain international stability in economic field. The heavy imbalance which India faces in her trade with the countries in the European Economic Community has been brought out clearly in the report.

The report recommends positive action on:

(i) coordination of programmes of the member countries of the Community in the Credit sector; and (ii) study of large scale specific agreements on determined products which will ensure steady and increasing flow of exports of Indian products to the Community.

The European Parliament in a resolution took note of the interim report and invited the Commission of the E.E.C. to intensify its contacts with representatives of the Indian Government with a view to prepare the opening of real bilateral negotiations between India and the countries in the Community. It also emphasised the importance of action for a co-ordinated programme of the Six member States of the Community in the field of economic and financial aid. The President of the Parliament was asked to transmit the resolution on the report to the Commission of the E.E.C. and to member Governments.

(c) Government welcomes the awareness of the European Community of the problem which India faces in developing her economy and appreciates the resolution passed by the European Parliament, and hopes that the initiative taken by the European Parliament would lay the foundation of an abiding relationship between India and the European Economic Community.

Help to Ceylon for Railway Security

2292. **Shri D. C. Sharma:**
Shri Ram Harkh Yadav:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been agreed to help Ceylon in reorganizing its railway security measures; and

(b) if so, the nature of help proposed to be given?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) Yes.

(b) The Government of Ceylon had requested the Government of India for lending them, for two months, the services of an expert, under the Colombo Plan, to examine and report on problems relating to the Security Service Organisation of the Ceylon Government Railways. The services of the Inspector-General Railway Protection Force of the Indian Railways, have accordingly been loaned to that Government.

Ferry Service

2293. **Shri Vasudevan Nair:**
Shri Indrajit Gupta:
Shri Warior:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the amount that is being spent every year by the Indian Railways for the maintenance of Ferry Service across Sahibganj—Sakrigali Ghat—Manihari Ghat and Farakka—Khejuria Ghat?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways (Dr. Rami Subhag