

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (SHRI CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : (a) and (c) . Details of export licences issued are published in the 'Weekly Bulletin of Industrial Licences, Import Licences and Export Licences', copies of which are available in the parliament Library.

(b) The number of applicants is over a lakh and the time and labour involved in compiling the information will not be commensurate with the advantage to be derived therefrom.

Diplomatic Relations with Israel

4503. SHRI JUGAL MONDAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the question of establishing diplomatic relations with Israel has been considered afresh by Government; and

(b) if so, the decision taken thereon ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Implementation of Tashkent Declaration

4504. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO :
SHRI D. N. PATODIA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the views expressed by the Chairman of the Supreme Soviet, USSR during his recent Press Conference as reported in "Patriot", dated the 21st February, 1969 regarding slow implementation of the Tashkent Declaration; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in regard thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The House is aware that Government have made a number of proposals for implementation of the Tashkent Declaration, to Pakistan. The lack of progress in this matter is due to the Government of Pakistan's unconstructive attitude to our proposals.

Lac Board

4505. DR. SUSHILA NAYAR :
SHRI A. SREEDHARAN :
SHRI VALMIKI CHOUDHARY :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to set up a Lac Board in the country;

(b) if so, the main objectives for setting up the Board;

(c) the financial implications thereof; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be set up ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (SHRI CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) . Do not arise.

Trade Negotiations with USSR, Italy, France and Japan

4505. SHRI R. K. BIRLA : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India is having trade negotiations with USSR, Italy, Japan and France;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to consult trade and industry before finalising and deal with these countries ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (SHRI CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : (a) and (b). No trade negotiations are taking place with USSR, Japan and Italy at present. Trade negotiations were held with France from 7th March to 11th March, 1969, the details of which are given in the statement given below.

(c) Export Promotion Councils and Commodity Boards are usually consulted before the negotiations are finalised.

Statement

Indo-French Trade Agreement originally concluded in 1959 and renewed from time to time has been renewed for a further period of one year from 1st January, 1969.

It provides for increased quotas for Indian Products which are subject to quantitative restrictions in France as under :-

Item	Increase in Quotas (In Million French Francs)	
	From 1968	To 1969
Dried Mushrooms	1.500	2 000
Woollen Hosiery	0.200	0 220
Clothing other than cotton	0.650	0 720
Tennis and basket-ball shoes	0.660	0 800
Fairs and Exhibitions	0 750	0 800
Miscellaneous products	0.600	0 650

All quantitative restrictions on the Import of onions into France from India have been abolished for the period 1st March, 1969 to 15th May, 1969.

It has also been agreed that licences for the import of articles made of Coir from India into France will henceforth be visaed by the Indian Embassy in Paris.

Production of Jute

4507. SHRI BENI SHANKER SHARMA : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of jute expected to be produced in India during the current year;

(b) the approximate quantity of consumption by the jute mills in India;

(c) how the gap between consumption and production is proposed to be filled ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (SHRI CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : (a) to (c). The jute industry is faced with shortage of raw material in view of an exceptionally short crop this year. The estimated jute and mesta production in 1968-69 is unlikely to exceed 48.50 lakh bales. Even with the carryover stock of last season and the imports of raw jute, there will be a sizeable gap between the availability and normal requirements of fibre. The normal consumption requirements are of the order of about 72 lakh bales. In view however, of the shortage, consumption is being regulated in a planned manner in accordance with the availability of fibre, since November, 1968.

Centaur Rocket Launched at Thumba Rocket Centre

4508. SHRI BENI SHANKER SHARMA :
SHRI D. C SHARMA :
SHRI HARDAYAL DEVGUN :
SHRI RANJIT SINGH :
SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Centaur rocket made in India was launched from the Thumba rocket centre on the 26th February, 1969;

(b) if so, the salient features of the rocket fired; and