

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to counter it ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) : (a) to (c). Government have seen reports to the effect that Pakistan is developing Gwadar as a major port with the assistance of the Government of USSR.

All developments having a bearing on the security of our country are closely watched and taken note of in our Defence Plans.

महाराष्ट्र में कपड़ा मिलों का बन्द होना

3514. श्री देवराव पाटिल : क्या बंदेशिक व्यापार तथा पूर्ति मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) वित्तीय संकट के कारण महाराष्ट्र में कितनी कपड़ा मिलें बंद होने की संभावना है ;

(ख) इसके परिणामस्वरूप कितने श्रमिक तथा अन्य कर्मचारी बेरोजगार हो जाने की संभावना है ; और

(ग) उक्त संकट को हल करने के लिये सरकार ने जो प्रस्ताव किया है उसको व्योम क्या है ?

बंदेशिक व्यापार तथा पूर्ति मन्त्रालय में उप-मन्त्री (श्री चौधरी राम सेवक) : (क) सरकार को कोई जानकारी नहीं है ।

(ख) तथा (ग). प्रश्न नहीं उठते ।

नारियल जटा उद्योग संबंधी अध्ययन-दल

3515. श्री देवराव पाटिल : क्या बंदेशिक व्यापार तथा पूर्ति मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या चौथी पंचवर्षीय योजना अवधि में नारियल जटा उद्योग के विकास के सम्बन्ध में अध्ययन करने के लिये कोई अध्ययन-दल नियुक्त किया गया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या उस अध्ययन-दल ने अपना प्रतिवेदन सरकार को प्रस्तुत कर दिया है ; और

(ग) उसकी मुख्य बातें क्या हैं ?

बंदेशिक व्यापार तथा पूर्ति मन्त्रालय में उप-मन्त्री (श्री चौधरी राम सेवक) : (क) जी हां ।

(ख) अध्ययन दल का गठन 22 जुलाई, 1969 को किया गया था और उसके द्वारा छः महीने की अवधि में अपना प्रतिवेदन प्रस्तुत किये जाने की अपेक्षा है ।

(ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

Ban on Export of Raw Goatskins

3516. SHRI TULSIDAS DASAPPA : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to stop the export of raw goatskins by 1973 ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) the estimated loss of foreign exchange as a result thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (SHRI CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : (a) and (b). The export of raw goatskins is being gradually reduced and is proposed to be stopped altogether by 1973 ; this is in order to make more raw materials available for the local tanning and finishing industry so that there could be more exports of tanned goatskins and finished leather made therefrom.

(c) There is likely to be no loss of foreign exchange as a result of the stopping of the export of raw goatskins ; on the other hand there will be increased earnings of foreign exchange through exports of tanned goatskins and finished leather for which unit value realisations are higher.

Indo-Afghan Fruit Trade

3517. SHRI N. R. LASKAR :
SHRI CHENGALRAYA
NAIDU :
SHRI R. BARUA :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that trade in

fresh fruit between India and Afghanistan through Pakistan has started recently ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this is the only land route by which India can have trade with Afghanistan ;

(c) whether Government are considering to have alternate route linking India and Afghanistan direct ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (SHRI CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. From August 1966, movement of fresh fruits from Afghanistan to India has been allowed by Pakistan through Husainiwala.

(c) and (d). An alternative route e.g. sea-cum-land route via Iran is possible. The traders can also air-freight their goods between India and Afghanistan. These alternatives, however, involve additional cost in transportation.

Crisis in Tea Industry in India

3518. SHRI R. BARUA : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the serious crisis which the tea industry is facing in India ;

(b) whether the tax incidence on tea since 1960 has risen to 74 per cent in 1969 and thereby putting Indian tea at a disadvantage in competitive export market ;

(c) whether Indian tea being exposed to a buyer's market, it is possible to pass on the increase in the cost of production to the consumers in the export field ; and

(d) whether any steps are contemplated to avert an impending crash threatening the economy of a state like Assam depending largely on tea ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (SHRI CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : (a) and (d). There is no crisis in the Tea Industry but it has been facing difficulties for which possible and necessary remedial action has been taken from time to time. Although the price of tea was lower in the international market during 1968 compared to the previous year, the loss on account of lower price has been partly

offset by higher productivity and production in 1968. With a view to offsetting the decline in prices, the following concessions were granted : (i) the rebate on export duty was increased from 24 p. per kg. to 35 p. per kg. with effect from 1.10.1968. (ii) the special excise duty of 20% of the basic excise duty was withdrawn with effect from 1.10.68 (iii) a replanting subsidy scheme at the rate of Rs. 3500/- per hectare for plain gardens and Rs. 4500/- per hectare for hill gardens was also announced for helping the industry in carrying out replantation of old areas in addition to loan facilities and the facility of procuring machinery for tea processing through the Tea Board on hire purchase which had been there already. A further reduction in export duty on bulk tea from 20% ad valorem reduced by 35 paise per kilogram or Rs. 2.65 per kg. whichever is less to 15% ad valorem reduced by 55 paise per kilogram or Rs. 1.70 per kg. whichever is less, has been given in the budget. The export duty on packet tea in metallic containers has been reduced from 10% ad-valorem to nil while that of packet teas in non-metal container has been reduced from 15% ad-valorem to 5% ad-valorem. The Government are keeping a constant watch on the situation.

(b) No, Sir ; the incidence of taxes on tea in India in 1969 is estimated to be higher than that in 1960 by only 14.3%.

(c) This depends on the inter-action of supply and demand for different types, grades and qualities of tea. While it is possible to pass on the increase in cost of production to buyers in respect of better quality teas which are in great demand and whose supply is not so plentiful, it is difficult in the cases of poorer qualities of tea of which there is a surplus.

Import of Cotton

3519. SHRI DEORAO PATIL : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) the names of countries from which cotton was imported during the year 1968-69, the quantity imported and the price at which it was imported ;

(b) whether in view of the policy of Government to be self-sufficient in cotton, it is proposed to cut the import quota ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?