

(c) whether some nationalised banks have also filed their cases in the courts for the recovery of the said amounts; and

(d) if so, the latest position thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Disinvestment

4356 DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to restructure the equity participation in 40 Major PSUs for disinvestment;

(b) if so, the total disinvestment made uptill now and the extent to which it has been proved beneficial; and

(c) the total number of public sector units restructured so far?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). The Government have referred 40 PSUs to the Disinvestment Commission and they are now looking at them. So far no disinvestment

or restructuring has taken place in these PSUs during 96-97.

SAFTA Agreement

4357. SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of the agreement of South Asian Free Trade Area;

(b) the likely date of its coming into operation; and

(c) the level of trade undertaken among SAFTA countries during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). The 'SAARC' Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA) has become operational with effect from 7.12.1995 with SAARC Member Countries granting mutual tariff concessions.

The Commerce Ministers of SAARC Member States and leaders of delegations in a meeting held in New Delhi on 8-9 Jan 1996 while reiterating their commitment to accelerating the SAPTA process decided that the South Asian Free Trade Area should be realised preferably by 2000 AD but not later than 2005 AD.

(c) The details of India's trade with the SAARC Member Countries are as under :

India's Exports

Rs. Crores/ (% age growth)

	Bangladesh	Sri Lanka	Pakistan	Maldives	Nepal	Bhutan
1993-94	1349.31 (31.12)	903.23 (25.75)	200.96 (36.63)	24.88 (11.87)	307.84 (46.69)	31.16 (395.88)
1994-95	2024.13 (50.01)	1151 (27.44)	179.71 (-10.57)	48.28 (94.04)	377.03 (22.48)	34.93 (11.76)
1995-96	3469.91 (71.43)	1335.62 (16.03)	256.8 (42.9)	52.52 (8.78)	536.45 (42.28)	57.56 (54.79)

India's Imports

Rs. Crores/ (% age growth)

	Bangladesh	Sri Lanka	Pakistan	Maldives	Nepal	Bhutan
1993-94	56.07 (151.14)	62.82 (57.59)	136.68 (-63.60)	1.02 (259.75)	90.68 (61.41)	9.35 (166.24)
1994-95	119.82 (113.70)	88.12 (40.27)	165.61 (121.17)	0.73 (-28.87)	114.89 (26.70)	57.40 (513.96)
1995-96	282.13 (135.5)	145.83 (65.5)	150.8 (-8.94)	0.55 (-24.66)	166.95 (45.31)	107.2 (86.76)

Pending Cases for EPCG Licences

4358. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether many licences under Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme were cleared recently by D.G.F.T.

and are now pending for approval of the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof, case-wise; and

(c) the time by which these licences are likely to be cleared by the Government?