

(d) if so, the details of other issues discussed and the outcome thereof alongwith the officials agencies/ industrial sectors participated in the above meeting; and

(e) the steps Government propose to take to meet the Indo-US alliance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir.

(d) to (e). The Term of the Indo-US Alliance has been extended by two years for the period from January 16th, 1997 to January 15th, 1999. The Agreement for this was signed between the two Governments on October 16, 1996 in Washington DC at the Board Meeting of the Indo-US Commercial Alliance.

The Alliance encompasses trade associations as well as large & small businesses and provides a general frame work for increased inter-action in various sectors between private sector enterprises of both the countries for expanding trade & commercial ties. The Alliance is presently focussing on four sectors, namely, information technology, transportation and infrastructure, agri-business and power. The Board has agreed to consider including environmental technologies as an additional focus sector and also give additional emphasis to small and medium sized businesses. The Alliance is likely to further consolidate its achievements and build on new synergies between the India and US businesses for expanded, mutually-beneficial commercial linkages.

[English]

#### Electronic Data Interchange

4408. SHRI SANAT MEHTA :  
SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Electronic Data Interchange has been installed at Delhi Customs House for the efficient working of export business by the exporters;

(b) if so, whether the paper work load of exporters has been reduced to some extent with the installation of this system;

(c) if not, the efforts being made by the Government to make the system more efficient and to reduce the paper work load of exporters;

(d) whether Government propose to install more Electronic Data Interchange at other major Custom Houses in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Customs clearance procedure of exports under this system has resulted in reduced paper work.

The working of the procedure is reviewed on on-going basis to effect improvements.

(d) and (e). Government proposes to extend the system to other Custom Houses and Air Cargo Complexes at Mumbai, Chennai, Calcutta, Kandla, Nhava Sheva, Vishakapatnam, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Cochin, Goa, Tuticorin, Mangalore, Ahmedabad and the process will be completed by the end of 1997.

#### Hike in Wages of Sick PSUs

4409. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Public Enterprises has recommended that wage hikes for executives and non unionised supervisors be allowed for public sector units which are under the BIFR;

(b) if so, whether the Govt. have considered the proposal; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). As per the extent guidelines on pay revision, w.e.f. 1.1.92, it is stipulated that for sick enterprises registered with BIFR, pay revision and grant of other benefits will be allowed only if it is decided to revive the unit. The revival package should include the enhanced liability on this account. This matter, however, is under review.

#### Loan from ADB

4410. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently received the Loan from the Asian Development Bank at concessional rate;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the mode of repayment of the loan?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The Government has not received any loan assistance from ADB on concessional terms;

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

#### I.M.F. and W.B. Loan to India

4411. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN :  
SHRI ANANT KUMAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of loans drawn by India from IMF and World Bank and other foreign financial institutions as on date;

(b) the mode of repayment of these loans:

(c) the rate of interest which India is paying to both these agencies; and

(d) the terms and conditions on which these loans are sanctioned to our country?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The amount of loans drawn by India from IMF, World Bank and other foreign financial institutions as on 31st October, 1996 is as follows :-

Institution	Currency	Amount drawn upto 30.10.96 (in millions)
<b>Government A/c</b>		
1. IMF	SDR	9988
2. IBRD	US Dollar	11678
3. IDA	US Dollar	18332
4. ADB	US Dollar	1786
5. OPEC	US Dollar	172
6. IFAD	SDR	166
<b>Non-Government A/c</b>		
1. IBRD	US Dollar	3224
2. ADB	US Dollar	969

(b) to (d). The terms and conditions including mode of repayment and the rate of interest of these loan is as follows :-

The IMF loan is available to its member countries who are facing balance of payment crisis. It is available under different facilities at variable repayment period ranging between 4 to 10 years including 2 to 4 years grace period. Interest rate of IMF loan is variable, currently it is 4.36%, calculated on the outstanding loan.

IBRD loans are repayable in 20 years, inclusive of 5 years grace period. The interest rate is variable and is revised semi-annually. The current rate of interest is 6.94% per annum. The commitment charge on undisbursed balance at present is 0.75%. A rebate of 0.5% is however, permitted for timely repayment of loans.

IDA credits are repayable in 25 years, inclusive of 10 years grace period. These credits carry no interest charges but a service charge of 0.75% per annum is levied on the disbursed portion of credit. Commitment charge on undisbursed balances are fixed every year upto a maximum of 0.5%. However, for the last few years IDA has been waiving commitment charges.

ADB loans are repayable in 25 years, inclusive of 5 years grace period. The interest rate is variable and the applicable rate for the period from 1.7.96 to 31.12.96 is 6% per annum.

OPEC loans are repayable in 20 years including 5 years grace period and have an interest rate of 2% per annum.

IFAD loans are repayable in 50 years inclusive of 10 years grace period. Interest rate of 1% per annum is leviable on IFAD loans.

### Customs Houses

4412. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the locations of customs Houses set up in the country, so far;

(b) whether the Government propose to open some new air customs Houses in the country; and

(c) if so, the places identified therefor in the country specially in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) There are four major Custom Houses at Mumbai, Calcutta, Chennai and Cochin and Seven Commissionerates at Bangalore, Mumbai Airport, Delhi, Goa, New Kandla; Nhava Sheva (JNPT) and Visakhapatnam apart from other Customs (Preventive) Commissionerates.

(b) There are no separate Air Custom Houses in the country, as such.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

### Export of Spices

4413. SHRI ANANT KUMAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of spices particularly cardamom, clove, ginger, garlic, papper and turmeric exported during each of the last three years and in the first six months of the current financial year in comparison to the corresponding period of 1995;

(b) the foreign exchange earned therefrom during the above period; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of the above spices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). The details of export of spices (quantity and value) during the last three years and upto September, 96 are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) Apart from the trade policy reforms, the steps taken to enhance the export of spices include, abolition of cess on export of pepper (except green pepper in brine); saffron, cardamom, spice oils and oleoresins to make them price competitive in international markets; sponsoring trade delegations abroad; inviting overseas