

(d) whether it has been decided that India and Pakistan should increase their direct trade to increase the SAARC share in the total trade of the South Asian countries;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether Pakistan has shown willingness to reciprocate and allow her trade with India on a free and Most Favoured Nation basis; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) The latest trade figures between India and Pakistan during 1996-97 as available upto February, 97 and figures for the corresponding periods during the previous three years are as given below :-

(Value in Rs. crores)

Period	India's exports to Pakistan	India's Imports from Pakistan	Total trade
April 96-Feb. 97	511.12	124.38	635.50
April 95-Feb. 96	226.38	143.98	370.36
April 94-Feb. 95	159.65	156.52	316.17
April 93-Feb. 94	180.37	128.55	308.92

(Source : DGCI&S)

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) To promote increased economic and commercial inter action in the SAARC region, member States of SAARC, including India and Pakistan have taken a number of steps which include exchange of tariff concessions, removal of non-tariff barriers, holding of trade fairs, simplification of customs procedures, improvement in transport and transit infrastructure in the SAARC region with the ultimate objective of establishing a Free Trade Area in the South Asian region by 2000 AD or at the latest by 2005 AD, of which both India and Pakistan would be beneficiaries.

(f) and (g) Pakistan has not formally responded to India's demarche for according MFN status to India.

### Export of Sugar

6691.DR. T. SUBBARAMI RADDY :  
SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :  
SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI :  
SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be please to state :

(a) whether India's export has suffered during the current year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Agriculture Processed and Export Development Authority has invited tenders for the export of sugar this year;

(d) if so, the response received by APEDA in this regard :

(e) whether not a single consignment has been shipped to the international market so far particularly to the Far East Asian countries and the Middle East countries which were the major markets for the Indian sugar earlier;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to remove the difficulties faced by the exporters ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Indian exports during April-March 1996-97 are estimated at US\$ 33105.72 million which represent a growth of 4.01% over the export level valued at US \$ 31830.53 million for the same period in 1995-96.

(c) to (f) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority issued a Trade Notice on 25.4.97 inviting applications for issue of registration-cum-allocation certificate (RCAC) for export of 1,55,658 MTs of sugar. Till 12.5.97, 18 RCAC's for export of 51243.50 MTs of sugar to Pakistan, USA, European Union, Maldives and Canada have been issued. The export destinations of sugar would depend upon international prices, international demand and supply position, consumer preferences and other terms and conditions of trade.

(g) Facilitating exports including by the removal of difficulties faced by exporters, if any, is an ongoing process. As and when specific problems are brought to notice of the Government, remedial action is initiated.