

(c) The anti-smuggling drive has been intensified and the anti-smuggling machinery throughout the country including the land borders has been geared up. Close co-ordination is being maintained with all the agencies concerned in the detection and prevention of smuggling.

IMPORT OF TITANIUM DIOXIDE

1510. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be please to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to remove import of Titanium Dioxide from Open General Licence list; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) (a) and (b) : Review of Import-Export Policy is a continuous process and necessary corrective measures are taken, as and when the situation so warrants, after taking into consideration all the relevant factors and keeping in view, the needs of the economy. The changes in the policy as and when made, are notified in the Gazette of India. India.

ANTI-DUMPING DUTIES ON COTTON YARN

1511. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR KANODIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Government urged to take action on ECC proposal" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated July 20, 1991 wherein it has been stated that ECC plans to impose provisional anti-dumping duties on imports of cotton yarn from India;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

On 22 March, 1990, the EEC initiated anti-dumping proceedings against imports of cotton yarn from Brazil, Egypt, India, Thailand and Turkey. The exporters and the Export Promotion Council were advised to engage professional lawyers familiar with EC anti-dumping regulations to handle the case. A representation was also made to the EC Commission through our Embassy at Brussels that since Indian exports of cotton yarn were already restrained under the bilateral textiles agreement within the frame work of the MFA, the investigation was unwarranted. However, the EEC continued with its investigations and two teams of EEC officials visited India in October and November 1990. A further representation was made to the EC Commission through our Embassy at Brussels in May 1991 raising a number of technical issues concerning the investigations. In addition, it was pointed out that :—

(i) The market share of Indian cotton yarn was too low to cause material injury.

(ii) Since exports of cotton yarn were already subject to quantitative restrictions under the MFA, exports within this limit should not be regarded as causing material injury to the domestic industry.

(iii) As India is a developing country, the possibility of constructive remedies as provided in the GATT Anti-Dumping Code should first be explored before applying anti-dumping duties.

(iv) Consideration should also be given to the fact that Indo-EEC trade has shown a persistent and steadily widening trade gap adverse to India.

According to information received from our Embassy in Brussels, the EEC Anti-Dumping Advisory Committee met on 25 July 1991 and approved provisional anti-dumping duties against Indian exporters ranging from 0.2% to 15.9%. Provisional anti-dumping duties have also been approved in respect of import from the four other countries ranging from 0.1%

to 25%. These provisional duties will come into effect after publication of the finding of the Anti-Dumping Committee.

These duties are provisional. The EC Commission will now make a disclosure of the basis on which it has arrived at its provisional decision.

Government of India propose to pursue the matter with the EC Commission.

NATIONAL HIGHWAYS IN ANDHRA PRADESH

1512. SHRI DATTARAYA BANDARU : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the length of the National Highways in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) the amount sanctioned/released or proposed to be sanctioned/released for the maintenance of the National Highways in Andhra Pradesh during the current financial year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) The length of National Highways in Andhra Pradesh is 2519 Kms.

(b) During the current financial year, a tentative provision of Rs. 867.50 lakhs has been made for maintenance and repair of National Highways in Andhra Pradesh, and an amount of Rs. 214 lakhs has been released so far.

[Translation]

FALL OF ROCKET PODS FROM BOMBER AIRCRAFT OVER CHANDIGARH

1513. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK :

SHRIMATI RITA VERMA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item that appeared in the Jansatta of July 17, 1991 that two rocket pods fell from a bomber aircraft of the Air Force over Chandigarh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether an enquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) whether there is any proposal to review the training and maintenance syllabus to prevent such accidents and losses; and

(f) the other steps proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Two rocket pods accidentally fell off from an IAF aircraft on 16-7-1991 at Chandigarh. One of the pods fell in the rear portion of a house in Sector 11 causing certain damage to the verandah floor and a desert cooler. The second pod fell in an open area outside the boundary wall of a School. There was no other damage or injury.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Court of Inquiry which investigated the incident has indicated that it was most probably caused by the malfunction of the electrical system meant for emergency jettisoning of the pods.

(e) and (f) Review of training content and maintenance procedures with a view to minimising accidents and meeting the operational requirements of the IAF is an ongoing process.

CAG REPORT ON D.T.C.

1514. SHRI MRUTYUNIAYA NAYAK : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India in his Report No. 6 (Commercial) of 1990 has adversely commented upon the functioning of the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC); and

(b) if so, the corrective steps proposed to be taken by the Government on the issues raised in the Report ?

THE MINISTER FOR SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) (a) : Yes, Sir.

(b) : Instructions have been issued to D.T.C. to correct the systemic deficiencies