

reduced from 20% (minimum) to 19% (minimum) per annum w.e.f. 2nd March, 1992. The Reserve Bank of India has also constituted a Committee to review the arrangements for meeting the working capital requirements to the SSI Sector, review the guidelines for the rehabilitation of Sick SSI Units, and examine any other related matters.

Pre - Shipment Inspection of Goods by a Swiss Multi - National Company

2871. SHRI BJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government have taken any decision in regard to handing over the pre-shipment inspection of goods imported into the country to a swiss multi-national company;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c). There is no formal proposal under consideration of the Government for engaging the services of any pre-shipment inspection agency for inspection of goods imported into the country.

Travelling Facilities to Freedom Fighters in D.T.C. Buses

2872. SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide free travelling facility to freedom fighters in DTC buses;

(b) if so, by what time a decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). DTC is already providing free all route passes to all those freedom fighters who are residents of Delhi and are drawing freedom fighters' Pension. These passes are valid in all types of city bus services except Tourist Services, Palam Coach and Green Line Services of DTC.

(c) Does not arise in view of answer to (a) and (b) above.

Import of Jute Bags

2873. SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARAYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to import jute bags from Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the likely effect of such import on the jute industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) No, Sir.

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

UNCTAD Meeting

2874. SHRI RABI RAY:
SHRI SIMON MARANDI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India participated in the meeting of UNCTAD held recently;

(b) if so, the outcome of the point discussed in the meeting; and

(c) the effects of the decisions taken in the meeting on the developing countries like India and its advantages and disadvantages to the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). A Statement is enclosed.

STATEMENT

The eighth Session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD VIII) was held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia from 8 to 25 February 1992. The Indian Delegation to the Conference was led by the Minister of State for Commerce.

The Conference adopted a political Declaration calling for a new partnership for development. The Conference also adopted a document on 'strengthening National and International Action and Multilateral Co-operation for a healthy, Secure and Equitable World Economy' outlining the policies on the agenda items.

On International Trade the Conference called for action to halt and reverse protectionism in order to bring about further liberalisation and expansion of world trade, to the benefit of all, in particular the developing countries and to ensure that environment and trade policies were mutually supportive, with a view to achieving sustainable development. It also called for strengthening the international trading system through an early, balanced comprehensive and successful outcome of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations. On Technology, the Conference recognised that technology capability is one of the fundamental factors for social and economic development, and therefore, recommended that emphasis be put on policies and measures that promote

technological innovation in developing countries, including the provision of adequate financial resources. Given the importance of technologies to the development process, the Conference called upon the developed countries to consider ways of facilitating technology co-operation with the developing world. On debt, the Conference commended the actions of low income countries with substantial debt burdens which continue, at great cost, to service their debt and safeguard their credit worthiness and called for particular attention being paid to their resources needs. The Conference observed that the process of structural adjustment in developing countries needed to be adequately supported and funded. The Conference stressed that substantial additional efforts were required to enhance both the quantity and quality of support for developing countries. It called upon the developed countries to implement the understanding they have made to attain the agreed international target of devoting 0.7 per cent of GNP to ODA. On services, the Conference agreed that all governments should be encouraged to support progressive multilateral liberalisation of market access in sectors and modes of supply of export interest to developing countries including through the temporary movement of labour for the supply of services. On commodities, the Conference invited the Secretary General of UNCTAD to hold Consultations on the possibility of holding a world Conference on commodities, which would bring together producers, consumers, marketing enterprises and other market actors with the objective of shaping a coherent international commodity strategy, which takes into account the specific problems of selected commodity sectors.

The Conference also recognized good management as an essential element for sustainable, broadly based development and sound economic performance at all development levels.

The policy decisions taken at the Conference are recommendatory in nature and would be followed-up by the Committees created for the purpose. From our point of view and also of other developing countries, the outcome is considered positive.

Export Obligations of Multinationals

2875. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the multinationals operating in the country failed to fulfil their export obligations during 1990-91 and 1991-92 so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total net out-flow of foreign exchange by these companies during 1990-91 and 1991-92 till date;

(d) whether the Government have taken any action to check such loss of foreign exchange; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b). According to the information furnished by the Reserve Bank of India the following companies did not fulfil their export obligations:

1. Audco India Limited.
2. Sandoz (India) Ltd.
3. Johnsons & Johnson.
4. Roche Products Limited.
5. Bayer India Ltd.
6. Union Carbide Limited

(c) to (e). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Resumption of Residential Land of Cantonment Area

2876. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government can resume the residential land in cantonment areas purchased by ex-servicemen or others on the expiry of old lease;

(b) if so, the details of the procedure/ rules prescribed in this regard;

(c) the compensation given to the owners of such land and buildings;

(d) whether any special facilities are given to the ex-servicemen whose land and buildings are acquired; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Lands within the Cantonment areas are, by and large, owned by Defence and such lands cannot be purchased by individuals, including ex-Servicemen, but are merely permitted to be held on lease-hold/ old grant terms with the occupancy rights in respect of structures thereon. The Government can resume lands which are held on resumable tenures subject to the terms of the lease/grant. Purchase of land by individuals within the Cantonment areas is permissible only in the case of privately owned lands/free-hold lands which are not resumable and can be acquired in accordance with the provisions of Land Acquisition Act.