

(a) whether the Central Board of Excise and Customs is being restructured:

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposed restructure scheme:

(c) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and

(d) the extent to which this restructuring is likely to benefit the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

[*English*]

#### ASEAN Summit

3824. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a summit of Association of South East Asian Nations was held at Singapore during the last week of January, 1992;

(b) if so, whether the issue of setting up of Free Trade Zone was taken up in the summit;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) and (c). At the summit, the ASEAN countries agreed to the establishment of a Free using the common effective preferential tariff scheme as the main mechanism. The time frame for establishment of the Free Trade Area is fifteen years beginning 1st January, 1993 with the ultimate effective tariffs ranging from 0-5%.

(d) Government has taken note of this development.

[*Translation*]

#### Export of Foodgrains

3825. SHRI GAYA PRASAD KORI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the different kinds of the foodgrains and their quantity exported during the last two years country-wise; and

(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b). Rice, wheat and other cereals like Jowar, Bajra, Ragi etc. were exported from India during the last two years. A statement showing the quantity exported during 1989-90 and 1990-91 country-wise and foreign exchange earned therefrom is attached.