

(a) whether the demand for the import of oil seeds in place of edible oil is being made;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any decision in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the time by which the decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Soyabean Processors Association of India (SOPA). The Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA) and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) have made request for allowing import of soyabean seed and other oilseeds.

(b) to (d) A proposal for allowing import of a limited quantity of soyabean to augment domestic availability subject to certain conditions and procedural requirements is presently under examination.

[English]

#### Industrial Data Collection System

3480. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating for compiling industrial growth rate from 18th to 6 weeks with the norms prescribed by the International Monetary Fund;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to set up an independent source of agency for data collection;

(c) if so, whether growing liberalization and market orientation of the Indian Economy has let greater domestic competition; and

(d) if so, the time by which the independent source agency for data collection is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) As per Special Data Dissemination Standards (SDDS) norms prescribed by IMF, the Quick Estimate of Index of Industrial Production (IIP) has to be released by the Government within 6 weeks time. The various data source agencies are required to provide the monthly production data within 4 weeks time to enable the Government to release the index within 6 weeks. Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (IPP), Ministry of Industry is the main source agency for providing monthly data for industrial production. This data is being provided within 4 weeks and the IIP is being released in the required 6 weeks.

(b) to (d) The SDDS requirement of release of index of industrial production, is being met and the Government has decided that the existing source agencies for collection of data would continue.

#### India's International Trade

3481. SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have prepared a status paper on India's International Trade in the context of obligations under the W.T.O.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to lay the "status paper" on the Table of the House; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) The implementation of obligations arising out of the various Agreements entered into under the Uruguay Round is being constantly monitored by the Ministry of Commerce and the concerned administrative Ministries. Parliament is apprised of all significant developments on multilateral trade issues, from time to time. Since the Agreements span a wide range of commercial activities, administered by various Ministries, there is no single status paper covering all obligations.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

#### Import of Wheat from Australia

3482. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently imported wheat from Australia through the State Trading Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the quantity and the price at which the wheat was imported;

(c) whether quotations were received from other countries also; and

(d) if so, the rates quoted by them?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. State Trading Corporation has contracted for import of 15 lakhs tonnes of wheat from Australia at FOB price of US\$ 142.50 per tonne.

(c) and (d) A statement is enclosed.