

smuggling only. But as the hon. Member has raised another point, I will find out and inform the hon. Member about the whole thing.

SHRI MANI RAM BAGRI
(Hissar)**

MR. SPEAKER: Not allowed.

13.12 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

FOURTH REPORT

SHRI G. LAKSHMANAN (Madras North): I beg to present the Fourth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

13.13 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. ACCEPTANCE BY GOVERNMENT OF INDIA OF CERTAIN GATT AGREEMENTS ON NON-TARIFF MEASURES

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Sir, India is a contracting party of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) which is a multilateral treaty governing the trade of its Members. It is envisaged in the GATT that periodical negotiations will be held under its auspices for reduction of trade barriers. A major round of multilateral trade negotiations known as the Tokyo Round concluded in 1979. India participated in these negotiations.

13.14 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

These negotiations were launched in 1973 with the objective of achieving "expansion and ever greater liberalisation of world trade through progressive dismantling of obstacles to trade and the improvement of the international frame-work for the conduct of world trade". An important aim of the negotiations was also "to secure additional benefits for the international trade of developing countries so as to achieve a substantial increase in

their foreign exchange earning." At the negotiations, much greater emphasis was put by the participants on the reduction of non-tariff measures. For this purpose, a number of Agreements have been evolved during the negotiations relating to various non-tariff measures.

The Agreements of non-tariff measures have been drawn up with its aim of reducing or eliminating the trade restrictive effects of these measures and bringing them under the effective international discipline. They provide a frame-work of rights and obligations and contain detailed rules for imparting uniformity and certainty to the interpretation of GATT provisions. The Agreements provide increased transparency and establish stricter disciplines on the use of non-tariff measures, and a mechanism for international surveillance and dispute settlement. In considerations of the situation of developing countries, provision has been made for special and differential treatment to them. The developing countries of which India was a principal negotiator could not succeed in obtaining full satisfaction in regard to provisions for a special and differential treatment. However, even with the shortcomings, it is our assessment that implementation of these Agreements would lead to liberalisation of world trade and would be beneficial also to the developing countries. Accordingly, we have taken a decision to accept the following four Agreements:

(i) Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures;

(ii) Agreement on Anti Dumping;

(iii) Agreement on Customs Valuation; and

(iv) Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures.

During the course of the week, our Permanent Representative to GATT will be signing these Agreements in Geneva. The Agreement on Customs

**Not recorded.