

**Foreign Offices of Trading
Organisations**

*227. **SHRI K.S. RAO:**

**SHRI PRAKASH KOKO
BRAHMBHATT:**

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to close down certain foreign offices of trading organisations;

(b) if so, the number and details of the offices proposed to be closed down;

(c) the amount of foreign exchange likely to be saved by the closure of these offices;

(d) whether these closures would have an adverse impact on exports;

(e) the agency which will look after the interests of these offices in those countries after closure; and

(f) the number of officers and staff who would be affected by their closure and the decision taken about them?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been decided to merge all foreign offices of STC, MMFC, PEC, IDA, MPEDA, Tea Board, and Spices Board into newly constituted integrated offices of Bharat Business International Limited (BBIL). 16 existing offices of these organisations are proposed to be closed down. The details are given in the statement given below. Other offices of these organisations will be merged with BBIL's integrated offices.

(c) The exact amount of foreign exchange saving consequent to the rationalisation is being worked out by the Bharat Business International Limited (BBIL).

(d) No, Sir. The decision has been taken in order to rationalise the working of the foreign offices of some of the organisations under the control of the Ministry of Commerce.

(e) Bharat Business International Limited (BBIL) will look after the interests of the organisations whose offices are being closed down or merged into integrated BBIL offices.

(f) This is being worked out in consultation with the organisations concerned.

STATEMENT

List of foreign offices to be closed

<i>Name of the Organisation</i>	<i>Location</i>
State Trading Corporation	Jeddah Paris Tokyo Colombo Male Sydney Berlin
Projects & Equipments Corporation	Moscow Dacca
Trade Development Authority	Kuala Lumpur Harare
Tea Board	Cairo Sydney New York Brussels
Spices Board	Bahrain

Note : STC office at Nairobi will be shifted to an appropriate location in Francophone, Africa.