

and use of intellectual property rights is to be implemented not in GATT but in relevant international organisations. On the vital area of patentability while some participants want exclusions to be kept to the minimum, others have sought that the agreement should include the possibility of exclusion from patentability of certain products, and processes for the manufacture of those products, on grounds of public interest, national security, public health or nutrition. These include food, chemicals and pharmaceutical products and processes for their manufacture. They have also sought exclusions for plant and animals and an enabling provision for placing further limitations in regard to patentability of biotechnological inventions. All the points of view are reflected in the draft text which was considered at the Brussels meeting.

On TRIMs the basic divergences of view prevented the presentation of any official draft at the Brussels meeting. There was no agreement for instance on whether any disciplines including prohibition should be imposed on investment measures or there should be a case by case examination of these measures to examine any complaint of adverse trade effects.

On services, although a draft text of the agreement was submitted by the Chairman on his own responsibility, there remained many divergences of view among participants, and most of these are reflected in the text. Moreover, commitments on market access within the framework of the agreement have not even commenced and only some participating countries have given their initial and conditional offers.

Government will continue to pursue national interest and try to secure the objective not only that the overall package of results benefits the Indian economy but also that the legitimate interests of individual sectors of industry are safeguarded.

Import of coconut Oil and Copra

*18. SHRI V. KRISHANA RAO:
SHRI C.P. MUDALA-
GIRIYAPPA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to import coconut oil and copra from Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, the quantity of coconut oil and copra proposed to be imported;

(c) whether the coconut growers and certain States have requested the Government not to import coconut oil; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY): (a) No such proposal is presently under consideration of Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Representations were made to Government against possible import of coconut oil.

(d) Government feel that the time is not appropriate now to import coconut oil.

Impact of Gulf War on Price Rise

*19. SHRI D.M. PUTTE GOWDA:
SHRI YUSUF BEG:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Wholesale Price Index has risen sharply during the month of January, 1991;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the impact of the Gulf war on the Indian economy stating the percentage rise in inflation and price index during the last three months; and

(d) the measures taken/being taken by the Union Government to check the price rise and inflationary trend and to stabilise the economy?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) (a) and (b). The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) has recorded an increase of 1.6 per cent during January, 1991 from 186.0 on 29th December, 1990 to 188.9 on 26th January, 1991. The corresponding increase in the WPI during January last year was 1.1 per cent. The build up of inflationary pressures in the economy is due to (i) fiscal imbalances resulting in a higher increase of money supply and, thus, effective demand (ii) supply and demand imbalances in sensitive commodities mainly due to shortfalls in supply, (iii) liquidity overhang and the inflationary expectations. The hardening of international prices of oil due to the Gulf crisis and the consequent rise in transportation costs have also adverse impact on prices.

(c) It is very difficult to fully assess the impact of the Gulf war on the Indian economy at this stage. The direct impact of a rise in petroleum products prices on WPI due to the imposition of the Gulf surcharge at the rate of 25 per cent in the month of October, 1990 is estimated to be 1.3 per cent (given the weight of petroleum products in the WPI). During the last three months (November, 1990 to January, 1991), the WPI has increased by 2.3 per cent from the level of 184.6 on 27th October, 1990 to 188.9 on 26th January, 1991.

(d) The Government have accorded top

priority to control of inflation. The measures taken/proposed to be taken to check the rise in prices and inflationary trend include strict fiscal discipline through monitoring of Government expenditure, check on expansion of liquidity in the economy, more effective management of supply and demand of essential/sensitive commodities, and a strict action against hoarders and profiteers.

Joint Marketing Strategy with Sri Lanka for Export of Tea

*20. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have worked out a joint marketing strategy with Sri Lanka for export of tea and its sale in the international market;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Environmental Clearance to Rajasthan for Narmada Project

1. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rajasthan Government has furnished a report on the 'study of Environmental and Ecological aspects and remedial measures' in regard to Narmada Project in Rajasthan portion, which will cater the drinking water and irrigation requirements of desert areas of Jalore and Barmer districts