

I think, to cultural and other promotional activities, including Education and others.

So far as China exclusively is concerned, after our last understanding with China in 1985 i.e. trade understanding for 1986, in respect of the programme that was envisaged, as I have stated, involving \$160 million, we have achieved upto \$140 million. We have planned to discuss the 1987 plan very soon. We are expecting to settle the affairs for 1987 by the end of May.

So far as SAARC is concerned, there is no such proposal for a trade pact with SAARC countries at the moment.

SHRI S. M. GURADDI : You are importing silk from China. Our farmers are adversely affected by their prices. The prices of our own silk have come down, i.e. in India. Why are you importing silk from China, when the local farmers are growing silk abundantly ?

SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI : So far as raw silk is concerned, it is under an advanced licensing system. Once we extend the advanced licensing system to trade and commerce, it is their liberty to import it from wherever they can, of course without affecting the local farmers and other industries. If the Hon. Member is keen to know whether our silk is being affected by importing raw silk from outside, I can only say it is not.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : China showed interest in buying shellac from our country. As there is a crisis in the shellac market in our country, what steps Government propose to take to export this commodity from our country to China ?

SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI : It is a fact that China is a good buyer for shellac from our country, and that shellac production here suddenly faced a decline during the last two years, not only because its natural production and growth have been hampered, but also because of the international price line. We are trying to take all possible steps in this regard; and I am personally visiting next month the shellac-

growing areas of Bihar and West Bengal, to find out the possibilities.

India International Trade Fair

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*534. SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA :
SHRI S. M. GURADDI :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India International Trade Fair (IITF) 1987, is being held in New Delhi;

(b) if so, which organisations or industries in the private sector are being asked to participate in the International Trade Fair;

(c) the main features of the fair; and

(d) when it is likely to be held ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) to (d). A statement is given below.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). India International Trade Fair is intended to be a show window of India's manufacturing and export capabilities in different fields. Efforts are being made by the TFAI to enlist the participation of a large number of companies in the public and private sectors covering a wide range of products. Special themes on plastics, Rubber and Crafts for exports would be the main feature of I.I.T.F., 1987.

(d) The I.I.T.F. '87 is scheduled to be held during November 14-29, 1987 at Pragati Maidan.

SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA : The Trade Fair was held during 1986 also. May I know the major objectives of the Trade Fair, and also whether Government is satisfied that they have achieved the

objective? How much money was spent on the 1986 Trade Fair, what are the foreign countries or foreign companies which participated in that Trade Fair, and how was the response of the big business Houses in our country—was it encouraging? If not, what were the reasons?

SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI : So far as Trade Fair is concerned, as you know the last Trade Fair was the Sixth International Trade Fair held at the Pragati Maidan; and the whole objective of the Trade Fair is to attract the buyers of various parts of the world, to introduce our developed items to them, our progress in hi-tech areas and others, and to find out possibilities to book more orders in terms of increasing our export in hi-tech areas and traditional and non-traditional areas. So far as the last trade fair held in the Pragati Maidan in 1986 was concerned, we had introduced a system that in every trade fair the first four days will be reserved for business talks, buyers' meetings, discussions with other countries, our private parties and their private parties. In the last trade fair, especially Switzerland team, other countries like Japan, West Germany, they all came, apart from other developed nations. Now, so far as the expenditure is concerned, a little less than Rs. 3 crores was spent in the last trade fair and the orders were booked substantially more in various sectors. I may give general figures to the Hon. Member of the total number of fairs. In 1984-85, the total number of fairs organised was 38; in 1985-86, it was 37; in 1986-87, it was 52. In all these fairs, orders booked were Rs. 357.61 crores, Rs. 93 crores and Rs. 126.69 crores upto January 1987, including that of Pragati Maidan fair last held in Delhi.

SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA : He has not answered my question. How was the response of the Indian businessmen of our country? Was it encouraging; if not, what were the reasons? This trade fair has become a platform to sell and buy products. So, if there is any proposal to have a permanent exhibition complex in the Pragati Maidan so that it continuously goes on? Have the big business houses in our country started terrect special facilities to participate in them?

SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI : It is a perfect question by the Hon. Member that large houses, big business houses, did not show enough enthusiasm to participate in the trade fairs. We have taken note of it. Immediately after that, the Chairman of the Trade Fair Authority of India and the Commerce Secretary had a serious discussion with large houses and big manufacturing units of India. There they pose two problems. One problem they pose is that they meet to participate in the trade fair to exhibit their product—product-wise exhibition, not exactly company-wise or business-wise. Secondly they feel that there should be more exchange directly with the product owners or the manufacturers and other counterparts of the world so that they can settle their trade there. We have considered their problems this time in the meeting and we have taken a very comprehensive step in this regard so that such problems are not there in future if they participate in the trade fair. In so far as permanent exhibition complex is concerned, the talks are going on; we are still examining the possibility and prospects in terms of their loss and gain and involvement of other houses.

SHRI S. M. GURADDI : What steps are taken by the government to impress upon big business houses to participate in the trade fair; and what are their reactions? Will they participate or not in the November Trade Fair?

SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI : I have just replied.

SHRI RANJIT SINGH GAEKWAD : It has appeared in the press that the Trade Fair Authority was going to be organise an agricultural fair in the month of October, 1987. Has any step been taken to involve farmers in this agricultural fair; if so, what steps are being taken by the Government?

SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI : I think the Hon. Member is referring to agriculture. I think the international food fair that we have already completed in the Pragati Maidan...

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : No, no,

SHRI RANJIT SINGH GAEKWAD :

The agricultural fair is going to be organised in October this year by the Trade Fair Authority. That has appeared in the press.

SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI : The international trade fair which will be held in November in the Pragati Maidan, that will not only include engineering goods but it will also include other commodities including agriculture. I am referring to the exact month, not in October. It is not in October; it is by the end of October; and it will be closed by the end of November.

SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI : I have a letter from the Trade Fair Authority of India in which it has been mentioned.

SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI : It is not an exclusive trade fair; it is an international trade fair which will involve agriculture also.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, it is something else. I think you are talking about the Trade Fair. It is the Agricultural Fair. That is something else. They are two separate things.

SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI : The Agricultural Trade Fair they are talking about is for farmers. It is for the farmers.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, that is a separate thing. Do not mix them up.

SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI : It is not linked with our Trade Fair. That is entirely for farmers. It will be in the complex of Pragati Maidan. But it is not linked with our Trade Fair. It is a separate Fair.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Bhadreswar Tanti.

[Translation]

SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA : Hon. Speaker, Sir, nobody can deny that the India International Trade Fair has been a successful venture. It is also a fact that India is the biggest buyer of new technology in the international market. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether the participants of International Trade Fairs bring their new technology and new products of their own choice or we inform them about our priorities and ask them to bring their such and such technology and products in the field of agriculture, industry, petro-chemicals and electronics ?

[English]

SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI : Sir, in trade fairs when many countries participate there are two things happening. One is they try to bring their new products of hi-tech areas to introduce in our country, and secondly they find out as to what we need from that country and after that the buyers and sellers choose them.

Recognition to freedom flag hoisting day

*535. **SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI :** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to recognise the historical day on which the freedom flag was hoisted at Soota Police Station on 20 August, 1942;

(b) whether Government are considering to honour the freedom fighter who hoisted the flag at Soota Police Station; and

(c) if so, the action proposed to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI) : (a) to (c). Our Independence of which our National Flag is a symbol, is the result of the sacrifices made by a galaxy of patriots of this country; as such, it would be difficult to