

1	2
26. Haryana Kshetriya Gramin Bank Ltd.	90
27. Hissar Sirsa Gramin Bank	43
Total	1239

[*Translation*]

Investment for Railway Projects in Hilly Areas During Eighth Plan

*381. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have demanded huge capital investment during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, whether this demand includes the provision of capital investment for construction of Railway Lines in the hilly and backward areas of the country; and

(c) if so, the estimated percentage thereof envisaged to be utilised in these areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir. A substantially larger provision than that in the Seventh Plan has been asked for.

(b) and (c). The list of new lines to be constructed in the VIII Plan period has not been finalised.

Imports and Exports

*382. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total imports and exports in rupee from March, 1988 to June, 1989 month-wise;

(b) the reasons for imports exceeding the exports and the extent of foreign exchange liability incurred thereby ; and

(c) the steps taken to check this adverse trend of balance of trade?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) to (c). The details of imports, exports and balance of trade from March, 1988 to June 1989, monthwise are as under:-

(Value: Rs. Crores)

Month/Year	Exports (P)	Imports (P)	Balance of Trade (P)
1	2	3	4
March 88	1705.66	2095.62	-389.96
April 88	1441.73	2199.77	-758.04
May 88	1460.37	2065.63	-599.26
June 88	1380.16	2075.13	-694.97
July 88	1475.17	2023.96	-548.79
August 88	1467.44	2288.60	-821.16
September 88	1668.76	2317.06	-648.30
October 88	1603.62	2368.02	-764.40
November 88	1535.82	2103.22	-567.40
December 88	1724.01	2791.55	-1068.54
January 89	1959.65	2425.60	-465.95
February 89	1883.34	2303.40	-420.06

Month/Year	Exports (P)	Imports (P)	Balance of Trade (P)
1	2	3	4
March 89	2400.15	2327.18	-72.97
April 89	1957.70	2278.23	-320.53
May 89	2065.60	2691.99	-626.39
June 89	1972.17	2644.99	-672.82

P : Provisional

Source : DGCI & S, Calcutta

The imports are effected to meet the essential requirements of domestic consumption, export production and technological upgradation. The increase in imports during 1988-89 was on account of increase imports of foodgrains due to depleted stocks in the past years, the strong revival of economy which necessitated additional imports of machinery, raw materials, components, consumables, etc. to sustain high levels of industrial growth and unusually high international prices of metals, fertilizers, etc.

A number of steps have been taken for export promotion and import substitution to reduce the deficit in the balance of trade which include measures designed to generate surpluses for export, to induce the production of goods contemporary in technology and competitive in prices and to make the export profitable. Simultaneously, initiatives have also been taken to effect efficient import substitution, particularly in the area of bulk imports. Non-essential imports are also being restricted.

[English]

Free Trade Zones

*383. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Free Trade Zones set up in the country;

(b) the main object of setting up Free Trade Zones and the achievements made by these zones.

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up more such zones;

(d) whether any requests have been received from the State Governments to set up Free Trade Zones in their States; and

(e) if so, the names of States and action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) Six Export Processing Zones (EPZs) have been set up in the country. These are at Kandla (Gujarat), Santacruz (Bombay), Madras (Tamil Nadu), Falta (West Bengal), Noida (Uttar Pradesh) and Cochin (Kerala).

A seventh EPZ at Visakhapatnam has been sanctioned on 8.3.1989.

(b) Objectives of Export Processing Zones include earning foreign exchange, attracting foreign investments and technology, development of ancillary and feeder industries in the domestic tariff area, employment generation, upgradation of skills, etc.

The export performance of the zones during the last three years in indicated below:-

(Rs. in crores)

	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89
Kandla Free Trade Zone	236.26	185.05	271.59
Santacruz Electronics EPZ	102.36	110.14	185.19
Falta Export Processing Zone	3.18	1.86	8.11
Madras Export Processing Zone	10.04	16.45	24.04
Cochin Export Processing Zone	0.94	3.94	6.25
Noida Export Processing Zone	7.01	16.05	21.34