

packaging facilities, stepping up of publicity, providing special facilities for transportation of perishable items, providing incentives to Export Houses for developing exports of fruits and vegetables etc.

(c) Various incentives have been given on the recommendations of the Study Group for developing exports e.g. Import Replenishment has been provided for the items recommended, special concessional freight<sub>s</sub> have been fixed for all transport etc.

#### **Formation of International Jute Organisation**

2163. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that producing and consuming countries of jute and jute goods had a meeting recently at Geneva to finalise the formation of International Jute Organisation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what would be the duties and rights of this Organisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) and (b). A consensus on the text of the International Agreement on jute and jute products was arrived at by the 50 Nation-U. N. Conference convened at Geneva from the 20th Sept.-1st October, 1982 under the auspices of UNCTAD within the Integrated Programme for commodities.

The Agreement proposes to establish an International Jute Organisation with Headquarters in Dacca, Bangladesh, and formation of an International Jute Council whose main operational activity will consist of arranging for the drawing of and implementation of projects in the fields of research and development, market-promotion and cost reduction. The Agreement is intended to provide an International framework for an effort to improve structural conditions in the jute market and enhance the competitiveness of jute and jute products, vis-a-vis synthetics.

The Agreement will come into force on the 1st July, 1983 if by that date three Governments accounting for at least 85

per cent of the net world exports and twenty governments representing atleast 65 per cent of the net world imports sign the Agreement, declaring themselves to be bound by it or have ratified it.

Government of India is yet to take a final decision on signing the Agreement or ratifying it.

#### **Development of Chinese Troops in occupied Kashmir**

2164. SHRI DAULAT RAM SARAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the deployment by China of two companies and mountain warfare troops at Misgar, located in Hunza in the Gilgit agency and setting up of military camps between the Khunjerb Pass and Batura bridge in occupied Kashmir; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) and (b). Government have seen media reports regarding establishment of military camps in Misgar and other places in Pakistan occupied Kashmir by China. Government have, however, no confirmed information on the subject.

Government keep all developments impinging on our security under close watch and take adequate measures to maintain full defence preparedness.

#### **Rival Garment Fairs in New Delhi**

2165. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAIN SINHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been rival garment fairs in New Delhi both of which were inaugurated by the Ministry Authorities;

(b) whether this rivalry has affected Indian garment exports; and

(c) whether garment export policy has taken note of the demands of both these rivals organisations behind the two fairs?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL):** (a) Two garments fairs were recently organised in New Delhi by different Associations. On a request made by the organisers of these fairs, the Ministry authorities agreed to inaugurate the fairs.

(b) The two fairs would have provided an opportunity for larger number of Indian suppliers and foreign buyers to establish business contacts.

(c) The garment export policy for 1983 recently announced by the Government was finalised after, *inter-alia*, taking into account suggestions received from various sources.

#### Board of directors of Reserve Bank of India

2166. **SHRI SATYENDRA NARAIN SINHA:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Board of Directors for the Reserve Bank of India has been reconstituted; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE):** (a) and (b). The Central Board and the Local Boards of the Reserve Bank of India are proposed to be reconstituted by the Government shortly.

#### Rise in Import Bill

2167. **PROF. RUPCHAND PAL:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that our import bill has been rising steeply for the last few months; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons?

**THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE):** (a) and (b). According to the latest available information, the value of our imports during April-June 1982 showed an increase of about 18 per cent compared with an increase of

11 per cent in April-June 1981. The details of imports are yet not available. The higher rate of imports during the first quarter of 1982-83 might perhaps be on account of bunching of imports in that quarter. This increase in rate of growth of imports may however even out in the subsequent months of the current financial year.

#### Balance of payments

2168. **PROF. RUPCHAND PAL:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the balance of payments position of our country as in August, 1982; and

(b) whether the same has shown signs of imports may however even out in the instalments of IMF?

**THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE):** (a) and (b). Exact details of India's balance of payments for August, 1982 would become available after about 2-3 years with the compilation of balance of payments statistics by the Reserve Bank of India. So far these data are available upto 1979-80.

However, the overall balance of payments position of the country is reflected in the movement of foreign exchange reserves which continues to remain unfavourable. Though the payments balance remains unfavourable, it was less so during April-August 1982 than during April-August, 1981. During the current fiscal year upto August, 1982 the drawing on the IMF under its extended fund facility amounted to Rs. 931 crores as a result of which foreign currency assets of the Reserve Bank increased by Rs. 324 crores to Rs. 3,678 crores by end of August; but for these drawals from the Fund, the Reserve Bank's foreign currency assets would have declined by Rs. 607 crores. During the corresponding period of 1981-82 (April-August) during which there were no drawals from the Fund, the draft on foreign currency assets amounted to Rs. 984 crores.

We have drawn from the IMF four instalments under its extended fund facility