

imbalance in the country has increased about five times in the last three years;

(b) whether recent agreement of supply of hybrid telephone exchange etc. will not widen further this trade gap; and

(c) if the reply to the above be in the affirmative, what measures are proposed to be taken by Government to achieve balance in trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) and (b) The figures of Indo-French trade from 1978-79 onwards are given below:

(Rupees : Crores)

	1978-79	1979-80	1980-81	1981-82 (Prov.)
Exports	176.15	195.62	146.94	149.47
Imports	226.14	200.30	280.30	246.88
Balance of Trade	- 49.99	- 4.68	- 133.36	- 97.41

The adverse balance in our trade with France is likely to go up further with import of equipment and machinery for the setting up of an electronic switching system factory with French collaboration, unless our exports register a proportionate increase.

(c) It is not possible to achieve an arithmetic balance in our bilateral trade with every country. Our imports from France have been increasing because of the requirements of our developmental projects for the import of certain sophisticated machinery and equipments which are not manufactured indigenously. At the same time our exports to France have slowed down because of various factors including recession in the French economy and supply constraints in India. With a view to increasing our exports to France, our marketing efforts are being intensified. We have also impressed upon the French the need to buy more from India. Consequently a French mission visited India in January 1983 to identify sectors where France could make purchases from India. Follow-up action on the findings of this mission is being worked out in consultation with the French authorities.

Panel of Economists etc. for Appointment as Directors of Bank and Public Sector Undertakings

*297. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government maintain a panel of economists, financial and management consultants, retired bank executives and senior officers of Government, chartered accountants and professors of business management etc. of proven ability, past record and performance for appointment as Directors of banks and other public undertakings and also for appointment to various study groups/advisory committees, etc;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are satisfied with their performance;

(d) if not, whether Government are considering such a proposal in order to draw best possible talent for the development of national economy; and

(e) whether Government are considering a proposal to appoint apex level committees of independent persons of proven ability and record to monitor

the progress achieved by various sectors of country's economy and make suggestions for improvement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAT-ABHI RAMA RAO): (a) and (b) Presumably the Honourable Member is referring to the procedure followed for appointment of part-time directors of public enterprises and the nationalised banks which is given below:

1. Public Enterprises

The policy of government in regard to the appointment of part-time directors in public enterprises is to choose persons of proven record from industry, commerce, administration, trade union and public life. No general panels as such are maintained for these appointments as the requirements would vary.

2. Nationalised banks

The names for selection of part-time directors are obtained from various sources. Chief Executives of the banks, selected central Ministries, expert bodies such as Agricultural Refinance and Development Corporation, Institute of Chartered Accountants, Institute of Costs and Works Accountants, Institutes of Management etc., various agricultural universities, organisations of industry and commerce like the Federation of Industries and Chambers of Commerce of India, the All India Manufacturers Organisation etc., the Director General (Backward Classes) are requested to recommend suitable names.

In regard to selection of members of study group/advisory committees, this would depend upon the requirements of the individual committees based on the purpose for which they are set up. As such, no general panel is maintained for appointment of members to such advisory committees/study groups.

(c) and (d) In regard to part-time directors of Central Govt. industrial

and commercial enterprises, Government have retained the power to terminate the appointments, if necessary. Normally, the tenure of such part-time directors is one year and in some cases upto to three years. This system gives the government an opportunity to assess the contribution of the part-time directors and make changes, where required.

In regard to nationalised banks, the appointment of part-time directors is for a period of three years. These appointments are made by Government in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India in terms of the provisions of Clause 3 of the Nationalised Banks (Management and Misc. provisions) Schemes, 1970 and 1980. Necessary action to remove a Director can be taken if performance has not been satisfactory.

(e) Government constantly monitors the progress made by the various sectors of the country's economy. Economic Administrative Reforms Commission and the Council of Economic Advisers are also some of the bodies which study the working of various sectors of the economy and suggest suitable measures for improvement.

Export of sugar on basis of levy requisition

*298. **SHRI SUSHIL BHATTACHARYA:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the decision of Government to export sugar on the basis of levy requisition has been taken to boost sugar exports as well as to reduce export subsidy;

(b) if so, whether the export subsidy will show any perceptible fall when international sugar prices are ruling far below the domestic levy price; and

(c) whether it is worthwhile to export sugar at the ruling market price, instead of searching for other suitable export items, to the international market, which is already glutted by sugar,