

Trade Links with Cuba

*221. SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering any steps to improve the trade links with Cuba in the near future ; and

(b) if so, the main feature thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) and (b). Trade between India and Cuba has always been at a low level because of the long distance involved and was confined to the export of jute goods from India. Due to the establishment of own jute industry, Cuba cut down her purchases of Indian jute goods drastically in 1964-65 and stopped it completely from 1966-67. Since then the question of development of Indo-Cuban trade has been considered a number of times but we have not been able to identify any particular product which could form the basis of trade exchanges between the two countries.

Arrest of East Pakistani Refugees for Smuggling of Gold and Ornaments

*225. SHRI M. M. JOSEPH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of East Pakistani refugees who were arrested for bringing gold and ornaments in large quantities during the period from January, 1971 to May, 1971 ; and

(b) the action taken by Government against those refugees ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) and (b). The required information is being obtained from the concerned authorities and will be laid on the Table of the House on receipt.

Decline in Export of Marine Goods from Kerala

*226. SHRI A. K. GOPALAN : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the export of marine goods from Kerala has dwindled considerably during the months of February and March, 1971 ; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the same ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The decline was largely due to poor catch of shrimps of exportable quality along the Kerala coast during December-March.

Purchase of Railway Wagons, Equipment and Diesel Engines from India by Indonesia

*227. SHRI BISHWANATH JHUNJHUNWAI : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indonesian Government has evinced keen interest to purchase Railway wagons, equipment and diesel engines from India ;

(b) whether an Indonesian Delegation recently visited India and held discussions in this regard ; and

(c) whether any firm agreement could be reached and, if so, the main features thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) to (c). A delegation of senior officials representing Indonesian railways and roadways visited India in April, 1971 to explore the possibility of collaboration between the two countries in developing transportation facilities in Indonesia. The delegation led by the Director-General of Land Transportation and Inland Waterways of the Government of Indonesia visited our railway establishments and some manufacturing units in the private sector, and held discussions with concerned authorities in India. The visitors were impressed by India's achievements and expertise in the fields of railways and roadways. During the discussions, ways and means of collaboration between the two countries in the development of certain sectors of Indonesian railways and roadways were discussed. Specific items of