

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

transportation equipment and machinery of interest to Indonesia were identified.

Rockets Launched from Thumba Rocket Launching Station

*228. SHRI S. N. KRISHNA : Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether two rockets were recently launched from the Thumba Rocket Launching Station ; and

(b) the main object of launching these rockets ?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) and (b). Yes, sir. On April 25, 1971, two Nike-Apache rockets were launched from Thumba, one for the study of the equatorial electrojet and the other for simultaneous measurement of the neutral upper atmosphere winds and temperatures and ionospheric electron number density and electron temperatures.

Demand for a Second Atomic Plant in Tamil Nadu

*229. SHRI P. GANGADEB : Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Kalpakkam Atomic Power Project has been completed ;

(b) if so, whether the Tamil Nadu Government have requested for building another power plant in that State ; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Socio-Economic and Educational Backwardness of Muslims

*230. SHRI MUHAMMAD SHERIFF : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have chalked out any programme to inquire into the socio-economic and educational backwardness of Muslims in the country ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) and (b). Government are fully alive to the problems of all minorities and have endeavoured to do all that is possible, consistent with the provisions of the Constitution for the removal of their special problems. Further, the various welfare and development programmes of Government are already specially oriented to the removal of socio-economic and educational disabilities of all backward groups of citizens in the country. Such programmes will naturally cover backward sections among the minorities too.

Setting up of a Jute Corporation

*232. SHRI R. R. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have recently set up a Jute Corporation ;

(b) if so, the total capital investment and the functions of the Corporation ; and

(c) the way the Jute Corporation is likely to help either jute production in the country or foreign exchange earning through increased exports ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) to (c). A Public Sector Corporation known as the Jute Corporation of India Ltd. has been registered with Headquarters at Calcutta on the 2nd April, 1971, for undertaking