

smuggle it across the border. So, on 1st May, 1972, 40 per cent duty had been reduced to 10 per cent in the case of fabricated items and to 20 per cent to nil in the case of powder and mica. So, this temptation or root cause for smuggling has been sizably reduced.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Trade agreement with Poland

*465. SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a trade agreement has been reached recently between Poland and India; and

(b) if so, the salient features of the agreement and the foreign exchange expected to be earned from exports thereunder?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA):

(a) As a result of negotiations held between the Trade Delegations of Governments of India and Poland in Warsaw, a Trade Protocol for the years 1973, 1974 and 1975 was initiated on 17th September, 1972. The Protocol will be signed in New Delhi during the visit of the Polish Minister of Foreign Trade to this country shortly.

(b) Besides traditional commodities like tea, coffee, black pepper, cashew kernels, de-oiled groundnut cakes, iron ore, hides and skins, coir manufactures, jute manufactures etc. Poland will import a number of engineering products and other non-traditional items such as textile machinery, railway wagons, iron and steel castings including spun pipes, hand tools, pneumatic tools, electric household articles, ready-made garments, refrigerators and deep freezers, surgical cotton, builders' hardware, sanitary

fittings aluminium cables and conductors etc.

Indian imports from Poland will include mining machinery, rolled steel products, urea, sulphur, intermediates for pharmaceuticals and basic drugs, chemicals, refractory materials, zinc smelter, electrolytic zinc, etc.

The total trade turn-over between the two countries during 1973 is expected to be of the order of Rs. 1200 million, which will be about 20 per cent higher than the trade plan provision for 1972.

India's trade with Poland, as in the case of other East European countries and USSR, is regulated by Long Term Trade and Payments Agreements which provide for the settlement of all commercial and non-commercial transactions in non-convertible Indian rupees. This is a balanced form of trading and imports and exports are to balance each other over a period of time.

Currency Notes Lying in the State Bank of India, Lucknow

*466. SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Rs. 16 crore worth of notes unfit for circulation have been lying cribbed in the Strong Room of the State Bank of India, Lucknow, for several years;

(b) whether the Reserve Bank is reluctant to accept all these notes; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the positive action Government propose to take in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) The State Bank of India, Lucknow is authorised to exchange soiled notes