

with NATO, COMECON and West Asia

(Rs. Crores)

	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72
(I) NATO	1360	1405	1606
of which			
(i) U. K.	268	297	386
(ii) U.S.A.	705	660	680
(II) COMECON	551	480	517
(III) West Asia	232	253	283

b) In order to improve the balance of trade position, all possible efforts to promote exports and to save on imports to the extent feasible are being made. A close watch is being kept on the trends of exports and appropriate action is taken as and when the need arises.

Among the steps taken to utilise the potential of expanding exports to East European countries are annual bilateral trade negotiations with these countries. Indian firm Public Sector Organisations and Export Promotion Councils are encouraged to participate in fairs/exhibitions held in these countries from time to time. Sales-cum-study teams and market surveys have been arranged to study export prospects in these countries. Purchase delegations from those countries are given facilities to visit the various manufacturing centres in our country connected with exports to those countries.

Soviet Union's decision to buy Barium Carbonate

*364 SHRI C K JAFFER SHARIEF Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Soviet Union has decided to buy from India 10,000 tonnes of Barium Carbonate every year beginning from 1974, and

(b) if so the broad outlines of the deal struck in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A C GEORGE) (a) and (b) An Indian firm is reported to have contracted for the supply of 1000 tonnes of Barium Carbonate Powder to USSR during 1972-73.

Unchecked Export of Hides and Skins

366 SHRI SARJOO PANDEY Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state

(a) whether the large-scale unchecked export of hides and skins has created a crisis in the footwear industry,

(b) if so, the steps Government intend to take to put an end to the unchecked export of hides and skins, and

(c) whether this unchecked export would hamper the supply of the order of 15 lakh pairs of shoes to the Soviet Union?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A C GEORGE): (a) It is correct that the footwear industry is experiencing shortage of leather required by it