

an Order under section of the Criminal and Election Laws (Amendment) Act, 1969 the periodical has been prohibited for a period of two months from publishing any writing on the subject of Bangla Desh or the problem of refugees from East Bengal.

Decline in Export of Marine Products

*816. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the export of marine products from India have declined this year; and

(b) if so, the reasons for this step fall ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Indo-Soviet Trade and Payment Agreement

*820. SHRI N. SHIVAPPA : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Soviet Union have signed a Five Year Trade and Payment Agreement for 1971-75 ;

(b) if so, its main features and the industrial products which India is going to export ; and

(c) the amount of foreign exchange likely to be earned therefrom ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (THRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) to (c). A fresh Long Term Trade Agreement for five years from 1971 to 1975 was concluded between the Government of India and the Government of USSR on 26th December, 1970 in New Delhi. The Trade Agreement, copies of which have been supplied to the Parliament Library, contain a list of products which India is going to export to USSR.

India's exports to Soviet Union during 1971 are showing an increase of approximately 15% as compared with the preceding year and it is hoped that about the same level of increase will be maintained during the next four years.

Decline in Export of Hessian to U.S.A.

*822. SHRI RAMKANWAR : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Hessian export to the U.S.A. has been sharply declining the last three years ;

(b) if so, the comparative fall in the Hessian exports to the U.S.A. during the years 1967-68, 1968-69 and 1969-70 and the reasons therefor ; and

(c) the loss suffered as a result thereof and steps contemplated by Government to step up the exports ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) to (c). Exports of Hessians from India to the U.S.A. declined as indicated below :

(Figures in '000' Tonnes)

Year	Decline in exports as compared to immediately preceding year
1967-68	5.4
1968-69	30.3
1969-70	32.3

Exports of hessians to U.S.A. fell by 68,000 tonnes during this three year period.

The decline in exports has been due to the following reasons :—

- (i) competition from Pakistan where exporters get Bonus Vouchers ;
- (ii) competition from synthetics and bulk handling ;
- (iii) steep decline in consumption of hessians in the U.S.A.
- (iv) fall in production of hessians in India on account of shortage of raw material, labour troubles etc.

All possible steps are being taken to step up exports of jute goods (including hessians). A good jute and mesta crop is expected in 1971-72 season. Production is also being stepped in the jute industry. The prospects for exports are good in 1971-72.