

**Bilateral Trade with U.S.S.R.**

\*259. SHRI R. P. DAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether with the sharp increase in the volume of bilateral trade with the Soviet Union since 1975, India has been losing a great deal in commercial transactions in comparison to USA and UK;

(b) if not, how India is being benefited by the said bilateral trade with the USSR; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BAIG): (a) to (c). The statistics of India's trade with the USSR are available for the calendar years 1975 and 1976. According to these statistics, the trade has come down from the level of Rs. 755 crores in 1975 to Rs. 685 crores in 1976. The terms of trade with the USSR are not substantially different from those with the rest of the world, including USA and UK. Trade with USSR has given us an assured important market for some important commodities, such as tea, tobacco, coffee, etc., helped to stabilise prices and units realisation, and has served to introduce our manufactured goods into the world market. On the import side, it has provided us important capital goods as well as essential raw materials and goods, such as asbestos, fertilizers, kerosene and diesel oil, newsprint, non-ferrous metals, etc. and crude oil without outgo of foreign exchange.

राज्यों में शुष्क पत्तनों की स्थापना का प्रस्ताव

\*260. श्री मनोहराज बागड़ी : क्या बाणिज्य तथा नागरिक पूर्ति और सहकारिता मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का विचार निकट भविष्य में कुछ राज्यों में शुष्क पत्तनों की स्थापना करने का है ;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो उन राज्यों के नाम क्या हैं ; और

(ग) इस सम्बन्ध में सरकार क्या कार्यवाही कर रही है ? और इस मामले में कब तम निर्णय लिये जाने की सम्भावना है

बाणिज्य तथा नागरिक पूर्ति और सहकारिता मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अरिफ बाग) : (क) में (ग). उत्तरी क्षेत्र में शुष्क पत्तन स्थापित करने के प्रश्न पर सरकार कुछ समय में ध्यान देती रही है। ध्यानपूर्वक विचार करने के बाद सरकार इस निष्कर्ष पर पहुँची है कि देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था की वर्तमान स्थिति को देखते हुए यह परियोजना तात्कालिक प्राथमिकता की नहीं है। इसलिए सरकार ने इस विषय पर निर्णय स्थगित रखने का फैसला किया है।

**International Drug Smuggling Racket**

\*261. SHRI S. R. REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an international drug smuggling racket has been busted;

(b) what is the quantity of hashish and hashish oil forfeited; and

(c) what steps are taken to seize further stocks of smuggled drugs reported to be in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): (a) and (b). Yes Sir. Recently, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence with the assistance of Drug Enforcement Administration of the United States were successful in smashing an international gang of hashish and hashish oil smugglers which was operating between

these operations, 41.1 kgs. of hashish, 36.05 kgs. of hashish oil and 0.25 kg. of ganja totally valued approximately at about Rs. 45.00 lakhs were seized on 14th October, 1977.

(c) On verification, it was reported that there were no further stocks of smuggled hashish which could be seized. However, the enforcement agencies are maintaining a careful watch to prevent any attempt to smuggle these items into the country.

#### India's participation in 5th Tehran International Trade Fair

\*262. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that India participated in the 5th Tehran International Trade Fair in September, 1977;

(b) how many Indian Business and Industrial units participated in this Fair and what part did Government play in display of Indian goods in this fair;

(c) the total expenditure incurred in participating in this fair and the actual booking of orders from India and value thereof;

(d) the number of traders and orders anticipated from the pending negotiations; and

(e) is it true that most of these orders are nearly repeat orders of previous business contract?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BAIG): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Seventy Indian firms including Public Sector Undertakings and renowned private industrial units participated in the Fair. The Trade Fair Authority of India on behalf of the Government made detailed arrang-

ments for participation, namely selection, collection and transportation of exhibits as well as construction and setting up of the Indian Pavilion in Tehran and provided facilities for trade negotiations.

(c) The total estimated expenditure incurred on participation in this fair is Rs. 23.75 lakhs which includes foreign exchange element of Rs. 16.25 lakhs. Export orders backed by Letters of Credit to the extent of Rs 2.84 crores were booked by the participants.

(d) The number of foreign traders were fifty and the orders of over Rs. 7.4 crores are anticipated from the pending negotiations with them.

(e) No, Sir.

#### Import of Gold to stop Smuggling

\*263 SHRI G. M. BANTAWALLA. SHRI UGRASEN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to import Gold to stop smuggling of this high priced metal and to meet the growing demand of the people;

(b) if so, broad outlines of the proposal; and

(c) its effect on country's foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): (a) to (c). Suggestions had been made in the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Finance that Government should consider the advisability of importing gold as one of the methods for containing smuggling. Those suggestions had been noted. Government have so far taken no decision in the matter.