

**Trade talks between India and Korea**

\*292. SHRI . M. RAM GOPAL REDDY:

SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE ALLURI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether trade talks between India and Korea were held recently in New Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) A delegation led by Mr. Choi Chong Keun, Minister of Foreign Trade of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and comprising of 6 other members visited India from October 11 to 22, 1978 with a view to acquaint themselves with the industrial and technological capabilities of India, as guests of the Minister of Commerce, Civil Supplies & Co-operation.

The delegation, visited industrial units in Bombay, Bangalore, Modinagar, Ghaziabad and also Bhilai Steel Plant at Bhilai. They also had discussions with the business community. Mr. Keun made a call on the Commerce Minister, Prime Minister and the Minister of Shipping. There were also two full-scale official level meetings between the Indian and the DPRK Delegation between October 17—21, 1978 to discuss details of items to be exported/imported. During the discussions between the Minister of Foreign Trade of the DPRK and the Commerce Minister on 17th October, 1978, the former readily agreed to Commerce Minister's suggestion for

balancing the trade in 1978 and to aim at a two-way trade of Rs. 100 crores in the year 1979 on a balanced basis. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea have identified the following items for import from India:—

Sugar, shellac, manganese ore, chrome ore, iron ore, mica, ferro-manganese, ferro-chrome, steel products, jute bags, wire ropes, wire net for paper making, conveyor belts, dye stuffs, agricultural chemicals and pesticides, tyres, paper for cigarettes, craft paper, textiles for piece goods, polyethylene film, glycerine, trucks; dumpers, bearings, marine diesel engines, machine tools and cutting tools, nylon yarn and nylon cord cloth, etc.

The DPRK proposed the following items for export to India:—

Cement, PVC powder, zinc ingots, lead ingots, amorphous graphite, fertilizer, magnesia clinker, steel plates, alloy steel, shafts, menthol oil, certain type of machine tools and cutting tools, raw silk, hopes for beer etc.

It was indicated by the Foreign Trade Minister of DPRK that his visit will be followed by a Purchase Mission comprising of technical experts who will negotiate contracts for purchase from India.

**Financial aid for West Bengal**

\*293. SHRI TRIDIB CHAUDHURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) the total amount of financial aid sanctioned for West Bengal for reconstruction and rehabilitation work in the flood-ravaged areas of the State, with its break-up under principal heads as against the total amount of aid asked for by the State Government; and