

(b) whether it is also a fact these delegations have succeeded in dislodging the Indian Trade in some Islamic countries;

(c) if so, the countries where Indian trade has suffered, and

(d) the reaction of Government in this regard?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh) (a) Yes, Sir Delegations from Pakistan have visited some countries and their aim has been to negotiate for the expansion of their trade on the basis of price competitiveness and quality

(b) to (d) A statement showing India's trade with some of the Islamic countries is placed on the Table of the House [Placed in Library See No LT-690/67] It will be seen from it that there have been only marginal increases/decreases in our exports to those countries Our trade with UAR is regulated by Trade Agreements between the two countries Government are aware of the need to make greater effort to promote trade with foreign countries and this is being kept in mind

Price Policy for Cotton

*567. Shri M. Amersey:
Shri S. R. Damani:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state

(a) the recommendations of the Agricultural Prices Commission in respect of raw cotton;

(b) the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) whether the Commission has made any recommendations in respect of the price policy for cotton to be adopted for the next cotton season?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) to (c). The Agricultural Prices Commission has submitted its recommendations in respect of the price policy for cotton for the season 1987/1988 which are under

consideration of the Government. The decisions of the Government on these recommendations will be announced shortly

Quality of Indian Exports

*568. Shri Indrajit Gupta: Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state

(a) whether there is a rising or falling trend in complaints by foreign customers about quality of Indian exports,

(b) whether Government are fully satisfied with the existing arrangements for export quality control; and

(c) why no use is made of the National Test House, Calcutta, for this purpose?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) Since the introduction on 1-1 1964 of Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963, there has been a perceptible fall in complaints about the quality of Indian exports

(b) The arrangements for export quality control appear to be fairly satisfactory. However, they are under constant review

(c) National Test House, Calcutta, was approached but it could not undertake pre-shipment inspection at the rates prescribed by the Government for most of the commodities notified under Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963. Policy of the Government has been to prescribe inspection rates not higher than 0.2 per cent of the F.O.B. value of goods so that it does not become a burden on the export prices

Water pollution by Rourkela Steel Plant

*569. Shri D. Amat: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the polluted water of Rourkela Steel Plant is directly flowing into the river Brahmani by the side of the Steel Plant; and