

(a) whether it is a fact that preference is given to those students of India for the admission in the University of Moscow who are members of Indo-Soviet Friendship Society; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Trade with Taiwan and South Korea

*1453. SHRI BALRAJ MADHOK : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that India's trade with Taiwan and South Korea has registered a sharp increase recently;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is scope of further increase of trade with these countries if political relationship of these countries with India is improved and certain existing barriers are removed; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to remove such barriers particularly in regard to Taiwan ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI RAM SEWAK) : (a) There has been a significant increase particularly in exports to these two countries.

(b) and (c). With the Republic of Korea, India has Consular and trade relations. There are no restrictions on trade between the two countries beyond those in force for foreign trade in general.

In so far as trade with Taiwan is concerned there are no special restrictions on trade between parties in India and Taiwan.

Power Supply in Rural Areas of West Bengal under Rural Electrification Scheme

*1454. SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any scheme to arrange for the power supply in the rural areas of West Bengal under the Rural Electrification Scheme and more particularly in the Cooch Behar District for irrigation purposes;

(b) whether Government propose to consider the priority of non-irrigated area for installing small thermal projects to foster irrigation schemes;

(c) whether Government propose to make arrangements for power and irrigation thereafter through energised forms for tobacco growing areas in Cooch Behar District in West Bengal; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO) : (a) The Rural Electrification Scheme submitted by the West Bengal State Electricity Board for implementation during the Fourth Five Year Plan, out of the State Plan outlay, envisages the electrification of 1500 villages and energisation of about 10,100 tubewells/pumpsets in different districts of the State. This programme provides for electrification of 31 villages in the District of Cooch Behar. In addition to the State Plan outlay, the Rural Electrification Corporation would be providing financial assistance to the West Bengal State Electricity Board and other State Electricity Boards in the country for rural electrification schemes.

(b) to (d). The State authorities have been requested to prepare co-ordinated programmes for energisation of wells in the various districts of the State including drought affected areas and in districts (including Cooch Behar) in North Bengal where there is scope for utilisation of ground-water resources. Measures would be taken to provide adequate power supply for the implementation of this programme.

भारतीय क्षेत्र से होकर नेपाल का पाकिस्तान के साथ व्यापार

*1455. श्री देवेन सेन :

श्री शिवचन्द्र झा :

क्या बंबेशिक व्यापार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि नेपाल सरकार ने घोषणा की है कि नेपाल पाकिस्तान के साथ अपना व्यापार पश्चिमी बंगाल से होकर करेगा; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?