

result of review of the staff strength, a number of posts have been abolished and certain posts rendered vacant have also not been filled up. Substantial economies have also been made in expenditure under contingencies. These have resulted in a saving of about Rs. 20 lakhs per annum.

Trade with South East Asian Countries

*775. SHRI D. N. PATODIA : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) the position of India's trade with South East Asian Countries during the last three years ;

(b) in case no improvement has been noticed, the commodities in which India's trade has become positively adverse during these years ; and

(c) the reasons for the same and the steps taken to improve the situation ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI RAM SEWAK): (a) It is not quite clear which particular countries the Hon'ble Member has in mind. If the countries of the ECAFE region as a whole are taken, India's volume of trade with the countries constituting the region has increased from Rs. 560.74 crores in 1967-68 to Rs. 639.18 crores in 1969-70, and during the same period our exports have risen from Rs. 271.91 crores to Rs. 379.15 crores.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Anti-Dumping duty on Import of Indian Steel imposed by East African Countries

*776. SHRI K. M. MADHUKAR : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether three East African countries Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya have imposed 30 per cent anti-dumping duty on their import of Indian steel ;

(b) its effect on India's Steel export to

East African countries; and

(c) if so, the action which Government propose to take in this connection ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) to (c). Tanzania has imposed an anti-dumping duty at 33-1/3% on Indian iron and steel bars and rods. Kenya has issued an order, imposing anti-dumping duty on round and square iron bars, but so far has not announced the rate of duty. Uganda has not taken such action so far.

Such a discriminatory duty would, if not removed, adversely affect our exports of the articles in question to these countries.

Government have already lodged strong protests with the Governments of East African countries against the imposition of this duty and have urged upon them the need for its immediate withdrawal. Government will explore all available measures for securing the withdrawal of this duty.

Adverse reaction of Western countries to Establishment of India's Consular Relations with German Democratic Republic

*777. SHRI HIMATSINGKA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the decision of the Government of India to establish Consular relation with East Germany has caused adverse reactions against India in the U. K., U.S.A., West Germany and other Western countries ;

(b) if so, the precise reaction of each of them ; and

(c) whether it is likely to adversely affect the aid prospects from these countries for India's development schemes for the Fourth Plan and, if so, to what extent ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL