

2. The decisions taken by the WTO since its inception are broadly of the following categories :

- (a) Selection of a new Director General of the WTO.
- (b) Establishment of the different apex bodies and their Committees and selection of chairpersons and vice chairpersons for these bodies.
- (c) Finalisation of the rules of procedure for these bodies.

3. Most of the decisions of the WTO, so far, have been of an administrative and functional nature in order to get the WTO operational. India has played an active role in arriving at these decisions which are taken on the basis of consensus.

### Trade Agreement with Myanmar

\*530. DR. G.L. KANAUIA :

SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indo-Myanmar Border Trade Agreement has been implemented so far;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have discussed with the Government of Myanmar for opening up of the Indo-Myanmar Border Trade including the issues relating to immigration procedure, banking facilities, customs duty formalities and other matters; and

(d) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). In terms of the Indo-Myanmar Border Trade Agreement, border trade with Myanmar was officially opened from 12.4.1995 through Moreh in Manipur.

(c) and (d). Prior to the inauguration of border trade, arrangements pertaining to banking facilities, immigration procedures, customs formalities and other related matters were finalised in consultation with the Myanmar authorities during the official-level talks held in June 1994 and again in January, 1995.

### Textile Industry

\*531. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the new textile agreement signed with the U.S. and the European Union is likely to expose Indian industry to the threat of dumping by countries such as China, Bangladesh and Pakistan; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to safeguard the interests of our domestic textile industry?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b). The Textile Agreements signed with the E.U. and the U.S., provide for a phased liberalisation of imports of textile products into India and increase in the quotas for export of textile products from India to these countries. Only fibres, yarn and industrial fabrics have been opened up for import under O.G.L. Other fabrics, made-ups and garment items have been placed under the Special Import Licence (SIL) list. These textile products can be imported only at the normal rate of import duty, which is still appreciable. Also the extent of access through the Special Import Licence (SIL) route is limited. Besides, a specific import duty, as an alternative to the ad valorem import duty, on a whichever is higher basis can be applied, should the need arise, to discourage the import of low priced textile products. Apart from import duty, an additional duty equivalent to the excise duty etc., paid by the domestic industry, can also be imposed on the imports. Because of these reasons, the import of textile and clothing items are not likely to expose Indian industry to the threat of dumping by countries such as China, Bangladesh and Pakistan.

[Translation]

### Income Tax Outstanding

\*532. SHRI RATILAL VERMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons against whom income-tax to the tune of rupees one lakh and above is outstanding as on date, Region-wise;

(b) the total realisable income-tax arrears as on date, Region-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government for quick recovery of these arrears?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) There were 46564 persons as on 30th September'94 against whom income tax demand amounting to Rs. 1 lakh and above was outstanding (figures are Provisional). Statement-I showing region-wise information is enclosed.

(b) The desired information is enclosed as Statement-II. (Figures are Provisional).

(c) High priority is given to the work of reduction of arrear demand and appropriate administrative, legal and other measures are taken to reduce the same. In bigger cases, dossiers are maintained and the position is reviewed regularly. Request is made to the concerned appellate authorities for early disposal of cases. Wherever the recovery proceedings are stayed by courts, steps are initiated to get the stay vacated. Coercive measures like attachment and sale of property, levy of penalty etc. are also taken by the Department in suitable cases for speedy recovery of demand.