

(9) The Tobacco Board has re-fixed the price differential of Minimum Support Prices for grades other than the basic grades of F2 and L2.

(10) The cigarette manufacturers have been requested to activate their purchases of tobacco.

MOU with Maruti Udyog by STC

7933. SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Trading Corporation has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Maruti Udyog Ltd. to explore and identify potential areas for export of Maruti cars; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the achievements made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSII): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The MOU envisages export of Maruti cars, vans jeeps and spare parts by STC to identified thrust markets. The Memorandum is valid for a period of two years but can be extended by mutual agreement.

Enquiries for export of jeeps to Yugoslavia and cars to German Democratic Republic have been received.

Sri Lanka's Ethnic Problem

7935. DR. V. VENKATESH:
SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA
RAO:
PROF. P.J. KURIEN:
DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI:
SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the present stage of progress of talks on ethnic problem in Sri Lanka; and

(b) the assessment of Government about the prospects of normalcy in Sri Lanka and conditions obtaining now in that country for Tamil refugees in India to return to their homeland?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Government are in touch with the two sides to see if conditions can be created to resume negotiations towards a political settlement.

(b) While some refugees have returned to Sri Lanka from Tamil Nadu, the overwhelming majority do not feel confident that conditions in Sri Lanka are conducive to their return to their homes in safety. It is only when a political solution is reached and violence is eliminated that it would be possible for all the refugees to return to Sri Lanka in safety.

Textile Agreement with Sweden

7936. DR. V. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Sweden have signed a textile agreement in the month of January, 1987; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) A statement is given below

STATEMENT

The details of the Agreement are as follows:

(i) The Agreement is valid for a period of five years from 1 January 1987 to 31 December 1991 with a provision for extension for one more year subject to consent by both sides.

(ii) The earlier agreement will be prolonged for the period 1 January to 30 June 1987. During this period,