

(c) whether Government propose to give licence to foreign banks in the near future; and

(d) the number of non-nationalised banks functioning and their total deposits ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :**

(a) Presently, 20 nationalised banks are functioning in the country out of which the Head Offices of 2 banks are in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(b) 19 Foreign banks are functioning in the country at present.

(c) Applications of Foreign banks seeking licences for opening branches in India are examined by the Reserve Bank of India on merits and the licences issued where these are considered justified.

(d) At present 53 non-nationalised banks (including foreign banks) are functioning in the country. Their total deposits (excluding inter-bank Deposits) as on 15-3-1985 were estimated at Rs. 5958.60 crores.

**Appointment of CBI Cell in Nationalised Banks**

3832. SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to appoint a separate C.B.I. Cell to enquire into the mal-practices, corruption and misappropriations committed by bank managers and officers in various nationalised banks;

(b) whether protection is given to the honest bank employees if they made public the mal-practices going on in their respective branches; and

(c) whether the bank employees are permitted to make allegations against the higher-ups regarding misappropriations, and other mal-practices going on in their banks ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :**

(a) There is already a cell in CBI to deal with important cases relating to frauds committed in the nationalised banks.

(b) and (c) The bank employees are required to take an oath of secrecy and they cannot, therefore, make public any matter which comes to their notice during discharge of their official duties. It is, however, the duty of a bank employee to bring to notice of his/her management any malpractices or fraud which may come to his/her notice.

**News Item Captioned—'Biggest Seizure of Contraband and Textile'**

3833. SHRI SOMNATH RATH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state ;

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Biggest seizure of contraband and textile" in the 'Times of India' of 31st March 1985; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to put an end to racket in contraband textiles ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :**

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The drive against smugglers has been intensified. The preventive and intelligence machinery of the Customs Department has been reinforced in vulnerable areas in terms of man-power and equipment and remain vigilant with respect to areas vulnerable to smuggling and commodities, including synthetic fabrics sensitive to smuggling. In addition, appropriate anti-smuggling measures are taken in close co-ordination with the concerned Central and State Government authorities. The matter is also kept under constant review for appropriate action.

**U. S. Government Restriction on Export of Indian Garments**

3834. SHRI ANAND SINGH :  
SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH :

Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of USA has decided to impose unilateral restrictions on the export of Indian garments to that country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) and (b) The US Government had imposed unilateral restrictions on seven garment-categories during 1984. The Government of India took up with the Textiles Surveillance Body of the GATT Textile Committee against the imposition of unilateral restrictions on three garment categories. Textiles Surveillance body recommended withdrawal of the restrictions on all the three categories by the Government of USA. The Government of USA withdrew the restrictions on two categories, while they did not do so in the case of one category and called for further consultation. The Government of India held consultations with the US Government in March, 1985 on the unilateral restraints imposed on the five categories when Government of India pointed out that there was no justification for such restraints.

#### Steps for Reduction in Trade Deficit Gap

3835. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have tried to reduce the trade deficit gap of the country;

(b) if so, the performances of Government in reducing India's trade deficit gap in 1983-84 and 1984-85; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken in 1985-86 in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) :

(a) and (b) All possible efforts are being made by the Government to step up exports and promote efficient import substitution so as to reduce the trade deficit. The export, import and balance of trade figures for the years 1980-81 to 1983-84, and for the first 10 months of 1984-85 (which are the latest available provisional figures), with comparative figures for the corresponding 10 months period of the previous year, are given below :—

(Rs. crores)

Year	Exports	Imports	Balance of Trade
1980-81	6711	12549	—5838
1981-82	7806	13608	—5802
1982-83	8908	14355	—5448
1983-84*	9872	15763	—5891
April—	7808	12102	—4294
Jan. 1983-84@			
April—	9258	13122	—3864
Jan. 1984-85@			

\* Updated till January, 1985.

@ Provisional and subject to revision.

It may be seen from the above table that there has been a decline in trade deficit in recent years except in 1983-84. It is worth noting that the trade deficit as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) decline steadily from 4.6% in 1980-81 to about 3% in 1983-84.

(c) The Import and Export policy recently announced by the Government for a period of 3 years from April, 1985 to March, 1988 has been formulated to give major thrust to exports and encourage efficient import substitution. The new Import-Export Policy has already been laid on the Table of the House on 12-4-1985.

#### Opening of Accounts of Non-Resident Indians by Cooperative Banks

3836. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some co-operative banks set up in the State sectors have requested the Union Government to allow them to open accounts of non-resident Indians;

(b) if so, the number of state co-operative banks which have sent applications to Reserve Bank of India for this purpose;

(c) whether Reserve Bank of India has allowed those co-operative banks to open and maintain non-resident accounts; and

(d) when those co-operative banks have been allowed to open and maintain non-resident Indian accounts ?