

[Shri V. M. Sudheeran]

China was providing nuclear knowhow to Pakistan and that there had been exchanges of experts between the two countries. Even our Foreign Affairs Minister admitted while replying a question that the Government had received reports of Pakistan embarking on a nuclear programme which might not be for peaceful purposes. Though the Pakistani military delegations visiting China seem to be goodwill missions, actually they were negotiating military deal with the Chinese. In the circumstances, I charge the External Affairs Minister for giving up our security consideration by following a very submissive policy in relation to China. Our Government has not even come forward to recognise the Kampuchean Government. The Foreign Affairs Minister's statement on the Chinese aggression on Vietnam has given another notice to China to do anything. In view of all this, may I know what is the Government's reaction to the reported move of Pakistan for further strengthening its nuclear programme with the help of China and other countries? The Prime Minister has made a statement earlier that there would not be any nuclear explosion even for peaceful purposes. Now the Minister says there will be nuclear explosion for peaceful purposes. I want to know which is true. I also want to know whether the Foreign Affairs Minister has sought any clarification from the Chinese Government about China-Pakistan atomic nuclear collaboration and whether he is taking up the matter at the international level to build up strong world public opinion against arms race?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: I would reply to the nuclear part only. Other questions will be discussed during the debate on the Demands. When reports appeared in the press about China's assistance to Pakistan in the development of nuclear energy, we got those reports verified and those reports have not been confirmed so far.

12.32 hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

HUNDRED AND FOURTEENTH, HUNDRED AND SIXTEENTH AND HUNDRED AND TENTH REPORTS

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO (Hanankonda): I beg to present the following Reports of the Public Accounts Committee:—

(1) Hundred and fourteenth Report (English version) on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations of the Committee contained in their Fifty-third Report on Sugar Exports in 1974 and 1975, relating to the Ministry of Commerce.

(2) Hundred and sixteenth Report (English version) on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations of the Committee contained in their Eighty-second Report on Review of Guidelines for 1972-73—Crash Scheme for Rural Employment relating to the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

(3) Hundred and tenth Report (English version) on paragraph 19.5 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1976-77, Union Government (Civil) Revenue Receipts, Volume II, Direct Taxes relating to Non-Payment of Contributions to Trustees or Provident Fund Commissioners.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

TWENTY-SIXTH AND THIRTY-THIRD REPORTS

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): I beg to present the following Reports of the Committee on Public Undertakings:—

(1) Twentysixth Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Second Report of the Committee on Central Inland Water Transport Corporation.

(2) Thirty-sixth Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Fifth Report of the Committee on Central Inland Water Transport Corporation.

12.33 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. IMPORT AND EXPORT POLICY FOR 1979-80

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): Sir, hon. Members are aware, that in the period April, 1978—March, 1979, a substantial revision of the import policy and the connected procedures was made compared to the previous three decades. I am happy to say that the policy currently in force is in tune with the national objectives of increasing agricultural and industrial production with adequate protection to producers, building up infra-structure and technology, generating employment and making available essential goods for mass consumption.

2. While making the statement in the House on 3rd April, 1978, when I announced our trade policies and procedures for the current year, I had emphasised the need to impart stability to the policy. This has been our approach in formulating the policy for the coming year also. The representations received by Government in regard to the new policy have, by and large, suggested further simplification of the existing procedures, provision of adequate protection to our industry and agriculture and extension of increased facilities for export production. Furthermore, the new dimension given to the policy in the current year has necessitated a review of the arrangements made for giving inter-pretation and clarifications to the import policy, particularly in regard to the items for import under Open General Licences.

3. In order that adequate and careful consideration is given to the various suggestions and representations made and, as stated earlier, with a view to providing better stability to our import policy, Government has decided to announce the new import policy on 1st May, 1979.

4. To assist the continuance of our production and foreign trade in this period, it has been decided that:—

(i) The provisions of the current policy for the import of items under Open General Licence which expire on 31st March, 1979 will be extended upto 30th April, 1979;

(ii) All exports made upto 30th April, 1979 will qualify for Import Replenishment Licences in terms of the current policy;

(iii) Advance Licences will continue to be granted upto 30th April, 1979, in accordance with the current policy;

(iv) The existing provisions for the import of emergency spares will continue;

(v) Canalising agencies will continue to supply the respective items in accordance with the earlier registrations; and

(vi) Persons, who need to import any requirements under extraordinary circumstances during this period, may apply to the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, New Delhi.

A suitable Public Notice incorporating the above decisions is being issued separately.

5. So far as exports are concerned, many of the items are not under control and can be freely exported. However, in respect of those which would be subject to Export Control, a Public Notice is being issued separately setting out the itemwise policies applic-