

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Indo-Soviet Trade

*1084. SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the target of Indo-Soviet trade for 1987-88 ;

(b) whether the target was achieved or whether there was a shortfall ; and

(c) the steps being taken to increase the volume of trade between India and the USSR ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) : (a) to (c). A statement is given below :

Statement

(a) to (c). Trade Plans for Indian exports to and imports from USSR are drawn up on a calendar year basis. The targetted Indo-Soviet trade turnover for 1987 was Rs. 3800 crores and the actual implementation is assessed to have crossed the target by about 18%. The target for 1988 has been fixed at Rs. 5000 crores. Efforts are being made from both sides to achieve the target.

A series of steps have been initiated to increase the volume of trade between the two countries. These include expansion and diversification of items included in the trade basket, setting up of a group to study the matter of diversification of structure of trade and economic cooperation, participation in trade fairs, organisation of specialised exhibitions, conducting studies and market surveys for promotion of trade; identification by DGTD of possible areas for import of technology, conclusion of an Inter-Governmental Agreement to promote new forms of cooperation such as joint ventures, production cooperation, cooperation in the services sector, improving institutional links at the level of business organisations, etc.

Recommendations of Bose Mullick Committee on Handicrafts

*1089. SHRI YASHWANT RAO GADAKH PATIL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have considered the recommendations of the Bose Mullick Committee on Handicrafts ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the progress of implementation thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is given below :

Statement

(b) The Bose Mullick Committee had made in all 53 recommendations. Some of the major ones are as under :—

- (1) The budgetary support of the State Governments to their Corporations/Apex Societies should be suitably stepped up for effective implementation of their policies and programmes.
- (2) As a part of market management, efforts should be made (a) to cut down overheads, (b) to adopt cost effective personnel policies, (c) to exploit locational advantage of inter-emporium arrangements and (d) to rationalise the existing distributional channels.
- (3) Marketing efforts of corporations have so far been negligible in bringing into their fold the institutional buyers like government offices, central/state undertakings, the Tourism Development Corporation and its hotels. At the central level, there is scope for consideration of more handicraft items in the list reserved by the DGS&D.
- (4) Conditions of eligibility for MDF assistance should be amended to enable these agencies to explore the export market.