

with the Chief Ministers/Finance Ministers of almost all the States including the States ruled by the Janata Party...."

"The Chief Ministers/Finance Ministers of States have generally shown lack of enthusiasm for abolition of sales tax."

It answers everything.

SHRI ANNASAHEB GOTKHIKHE: I wanted to know specially about the States run by the Janata Party.

MR. SPEAKER: "Generally" includes "specially" also.

SHRI ANNASAHEB GOTKHIKHE: My question is specific. My submission is, whether he is prepared to answer my question. It is a promise of the Janata Party given to the whole country that they will replace sales tax by excise duty. I want to know whether they will fulfil this promise so far as the States ruled by the Janata Party are concerned.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: I am very glad to see that the hon. Member opposite is so anxious about a promise given by the Janata Party. I have already said that we do intend to do whatever we can to fulfil this promise in spite of the fact that there is a reluctance on the part of the Chief Minister....

MR. SPEAKER: It cannot be done only in respect of some States.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: I have said that this is a matter which cannot be settled immediately and calls for continuing efforts.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Aluminium for utensil trade

*531. **SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has received a memorandum from the Northern Indian

Aluminium Manufacturers' Association regarding imposition of a ban on export of semi of aluminium and allocation of aluminium to the utensil trade direct;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) steps taken or proposed to ban the export of this item?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). There is no proposal to ban export of aluminium semi-manufactures as the volume of exports is small in relation to domestic consumption of aluminium. Considering that the shortage is a short-term feature and that arrangements are being made for import of required quantities of aluminium, there is at present no proposal to impose control on distribution of non-levy aluminium required for the utensil industry.

Import of valuable commodities

*533. **DR. BHAGWAN DASS RATHOR:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has restricted the import of certain valuable commodities which were banned till recently; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG): (a) and (b). Imports of certain items which had been banned earlier were later allowed to be imported on restricted basis. A statement giving de-

tails of these items has been laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

List of banned items allowed on restricted basis subsequent to the announcement of Import Policy for 1977-78.

Name of Items

- (1) Para Nitro Phenol.
- (2) Bromine.
- (3) Pentaerythritol.
- (4) Para Nitro Chlorobenzene.
- (5) Camphor.
- (6) Outside micrometers (ordinary) of sizes over 300 mm and other special types of micrometers.
- (7) Vitamin E.

Further increase in the prices of rubber

*534. SHRI K. A. RAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rubber growers in Kerala have urged the Government to further increase the prices of rubber; and

(b) if so, the details and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG): (a) and (b). Representations have been received from rubber growers

for a further revision in the minimum prices notified by the Government. The growers have demanded a price of at least Rs. 800 per quintal for RMA-I grade of rubber.

Government raised the minimum price of RMA-I grade of rubber from Rs. 520 to Rs. 655 per quintal, with differentials for other grades with effect from 6-8-1977. The representations for further increase in minimum price are under consideration.

Export to and import from East Germany and West Germany

*538. SHRI AGHAN SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) the quantity of goods exported to West and East Germany and the quantity of goods imported into India from there in 1977 as compared to that in 1976;

(b) the details of the commodities imported as well as exported; and

(c) future prospects of trade with East and West Germany separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG): (a) The figures of India's trade with FRG and GDR during the last three years, as available, are indicated below:

(Rs. Crores)

Year	Federal Republic of Germany			German Democratic Republic		
	Imports	Exports incl. Re-exports	Balance of Trade	Imports	Exports incl. Re-exports	Balance of Trade
April-September 1977	235.5	115.7	-119.8	15.7	20.0	+4.3
April-September 1976	154.9	113.6	-41.3	14.8	23.9	+9.1
1975-76	370.0	117.4	-252.6	36.6	25.9	+10.7
1976-77	307.0	229.8	-77.2	30.4	42.8	+12.4