

**ASIAN STRATEGY FOR REGIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION**

689. SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state what are the salient features of Asian efforts to evolve a strategy for regional economic co-operation and to provide an Asian answer to Asian problems, referred to by him in his recent speech to the United Nations General Assembly ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : At the Third Ministerial meeting on Asian Economic Co-operation held in Bangkok in December, 1968, an important Resolution was unanimously adopted on the integrated strategy for development of regional economic co-operation. A Task Force has been set up in the ECAFE Secretariat to elaborate an integrated programme of action, embracing liberalisation of trade exchanges, stimulation of national production, development of Commercial infra-structure, and the organisation of a payments mechanism, to stimulate the expansion of *inter-se* trade flows. This programme will seek the co-operation of the Asian Development Bank for the provision of financial in-puts for production and other developmental projects of value to the region as a whole. In pursuance of this Resolution, several member countries in the region have set up within their national administrations, National Units to act as a focal points for Asian Economic Co-operation.

2. The proposed Asian Trade Development and Liberalisation Programme, the constituent elements of which were discussed at a meeting of the representatives of the National Units at Bangkok in August, 1969, and at the Intra-regional Trade Promotion Talks at Tehran in October, 1969, is geared to the objective of increasing intra-regional trade by meeting, to the maximum extent possible, regional import requirements with exportable surpluses within the region on mutually advantageous terms to the participating countries. It seeks to create and discover production and trade complementarities among the countries of the region. Several techniques for the implementation of the Programme have been suggested, which include, *inter-alia*, tariff preferences within agreed quotas, bulk purchase arrangements, long-term sales contracts, preferential relaxation of quantitative restrictions and other non-tariff barriers, and freight discount for cargo movements under the programme.

3. To support this Programme for Trade Development and Liberalisation, a time-table has also been accepted in respect of regional payments arrangements with a view to formulating a concrete scheme for consideration by the Asian Council of Ministers next year.

4. Progress has also been made in the field of tele-communications with a view to ensuring the early completion of an efficient tele-communications net-work in the region and the conclusion of a multi-national agreement on tariffs in this field, providing for, if possible, preferential rates for regional users.

5. In the field of shipping, the main areas identified for action included pooling of liner services and the establishment of a regional chartering exchange for bulk cargoes, securing discount on freight for cargo movements under the Asian Trade Development and Liberalisation Programme, and the creation of a Inter-governmental Co-ordinating Committee on Shipping.

**NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS BY CHINA**

690. SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state what are the significant features of 9th and 10th nuclear explosions by China conducted on 22nd and 29th September, 1969 ?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : The 9th Chinese test of September 22, 1969 was carried out underground about 150 Kms. north west of the Lop Nor site. Seismic recordings at Gauribidanur Station indicate the yield to be equivalent to approximately 20 kilotons of TNT, assuming full coupling in grinitic medium.

The 10th Chinese test was conducted on September 29, 1969. Based on our seismic and microbarograph recordings, the assessment is that the device had an yield between 2.5 and 3 megatons and was a three stage thermonuclear device with U-238 tamper as the third stage. Our observations would show that the device was a conventional H-bomb.

**भारतीय विमान उद्योग के विषय में भूतपूर्व चीफ एयर मार्शल का वक्तव्य**

691. श्री राजनारायण :

श्री जी० बरबोरा :

श्री रेवती कान्त सिंह :

क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा