

Export Processing Zone in the North-Eastern Region

790. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the creation of an Export Processing Zone for the North-Eastern region, as committed by Government, has been concretised so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, by when it is likely to be materialised;

(d) the steps initiated by Government for formation of export promotion councils in the North-Eastern region; and

(d) the response of concerned State Government in the North Eastern region in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (c) The Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce (1998-99) in its 33rd report, stressed the need to set up one EPZ in the North-Eastern region with Government assistance. The proposal for Export Processing Zone is under examination in consultation with Planning Commission. However, Export Promotion Industrial Parks have been approved for establishment at Amingaon (Assam), Byrnihat (Meghalaya) and Khunuta Chingjin (Manipur).

(d) and (c) No proposal has been received from North-Eastern region for formation of Export Promotion Councils.

India's Share in World Market

791. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the share of India in the international export/import market during the last three years;

(b) the major constraints in enhancing the export performance;

(c) whether single window clearance for export/import activities and effective labour-laws may change the scenario; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE):

(a) The share of India's exports in the world exports during the last three years are:

Year	%share
1997-98	0.64
1996-97	0.65
1995-96	0.59

(b) The exports were affected due to a general slow down in world trade and especially recession in many countries in South East Asia, Japan and Germany, domestic supply constraints in some sectors such as agricultural commodities and barriers in markets of European Union (EU).

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. These will reduce procedural delays and improve efficiency.

Amount Spent on Mementoes

792. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the annual Accounts and the Annual Reports placed before Parliament for the years 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 by the institutions and organisations receiving Governmental assistance do show clearly the cost on mementoes etc. given to foreign delegations, embassies and others;

(b) if so, the amount spent year-wise separately by each institution; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (c) No, Sir. There is no specific provision in the Annual Accounts and Annual Reports of the institutions and organisations which indicates the amount

spend on mementoes given to foreign delegations, embassies and others. However, in keeping with the practice on such occasions the institutes often give mementoes to the dignitaries invited to inaugurate the programme/exhibitions, as well as key-note speakers etc.

Amount spent on Hospitality

793. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Export Promotion Councils and Federation of Indian Export Organisations have shown clearly and transparently the costs on gifts, hospitalities, etc. given to Government Officers in their Annual Accounts and Annual Reports placed before the Parliament for the years 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(b) if so, the amount spent, year-wise, separately by each; and

(c) whether these grantee institutions do incur such expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (c) Export Promotion Councils including FIEO often give mementoes and provide accommodation to dignitaries, including Government officials, invited to inaugurate/attend programmes/exhibitions as well as to key note speakers etc. in keeping with the general practice on such occasions.

The expenditure incurred is insignificant in comparison with the total expenditure of these institutions and is not reflected separately in the Annual Reports/Annual Accounts.

महाराष्ट्र और गुजरात से किया जाने वाला निर्यात

794. श्री चिमनभाई हरीभाई शुक्ला: क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) महाराष्ट्र और गुजरात से किए जा रहे कृषि उत्पादों, खनिजों, वाणिज्यिक, औद्योगिक तथा वस्त्र उत्पादों, रसायनों, उर्वरकों और अन्य उत्पादों के निर्यात का व्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) प्रतिवर्ष निर्यात की जा रही इन वस्तुओं का पृथक-पृथक प्रतिशत कितना-कितना है;

(ग) गत एक दशक से इन राज्यों से निर्यात की गई वस्तुओं की जिला-वार सूची क्या है और इस निर्यात से वस्तु-वार कितना मुनाफा हुआ; और

(घ) राज्य में निर्यात क्रियाकलापों को प्रोत्साहित करने हेतु कौन-कौन से विशिष्ट कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं?

वाणिज्य मंत्री (श्री रामकृष्ण हेगड़े): (क) से (ग) वाणिज्य मंत्रालय समग्र रूप से देश से हुए निर्यातों के आकड़े रखता है।

(घ) केन्द्रीय सरकार महाराष्ट्र और गुजरात सहित भारत के सभी राज्यों/संघ शासित क्षेत्रों से होने वाले विभिन्न मर्दों एवं उत्पादों के निर्यात के संवर्धन के लिए योजना तैयार करती है और अपनी निर्यात नीति बनाती है। निर्यात नीतियां तैयार करते समय, विभिन्न मर्दों एवं उत्पादों के निर्यात की संभावना एवं उसके लिए अपाक्षत बुनियादी सुविधाओं को ध्यान में रखा जाता है।

Patenting of Basmati Rice

795. SHRI D.P. YADAV:

SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an American company, Rice Tec. Inc. received a patent of the Indian Basmati rice under the patent name "Texmati" early this year;

(b) if so, what steps have so far been taken to move the U.S. Administration for the cancellation of this patent; and

(c) what other steps are proposed to be taken in order to prevent bio-piracy and protect our bio-diversity?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE):

(a) A patent under the title "Basmati Rice Lines and Grains" has been granted to Rice Tec. Inc. Alvin Texas on 2.9.97