

(b) With a view to explore the untapped markets such as African countries, along with increasing export to established markets, the Spices Board has evolved a three-pronged approach to:

(1) identify countries where the performance has been good and making special efforts in these markets to improve the performance further.

(2) identify new countries where some beginning can be made.

(3) to identify areas where quick results can be achieved to make-up the shortfall. Various steps to boost exports of spices include:

sending of delegations to selected markets; inviting buyers from selected markets to India; participation in selected International fairs; publicity through various media on Indian spices; promotion of spices in branded consumer packs to create identity for the products; promotion of Spices Board quality logo to promote quality and Indian-ness etc.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) For increasing the production and productivity of spices, a Central Sector Integrated Programme for the development of spices is being implemented. Various measures include:

(i) production and supply of planting materials;

(ii) establishment of demonstration-cum-seed multiplication plots;

(iii) distribution of input kits and plant protection sprayers; and

(iv) irrigation and land development programmes etc.

Incentives for export sector

2348. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to announce many incentives for the export sector;

(b) if so, by when these are likely to be announced; and

(c) what are the sectors that are likely to be given priority for the export?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Review of the Export and Import Policy is a continuous process and changes in the Policy are made as and when considered necessary.

World Bank aid for rubber plantation

2349. SHRI SUDHIR RANJAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the World Bank has sanctioned Rs. 20 crores for expansion of Rubber Plantation in Tripura;

(b) if so, whether the fund has been placed with the parties concerned for the purpose for which the fund was sanctioned;

(c) which are the organisations to be benefited by the Fund;

(d) in what manner the loan will be repaid;

(e) what will be the rate of interest on this loan;

(f) whether there are any prospects of getting more loans for rubber plantation in future; and

(g) what will be the Central Government involvement in this fund?