

support price to natural rubber or to incur any expenditure on this account ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUK-HERJEE) : A Buffer Stocking scheme is in operation since 1986 with a view to ensure remunerative prices to the rubber growers and making available natural rubber to the user industry at a reasonable price. This scheme also provides for market intervention by the Government agencies at appropriate time to ensure the above objectives. There is no proposal to immediately withdraw the scheme.

Export of Iron Ore

7362. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration

to export iron ore to different countries;

(b) if so, which countries are presently importing iron ore from India;

(c) the quantum of iron ore imported by each of these countries during the last three years; and

(d) the quantum of iron ore procured from different iron ore mines in Orissa during these years by MMTC for export purposes ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUK-HERJEE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Iron ore is being exported mainly to Japan, South Korea, China, Pakistan, Middle East countries and Malaysia.

(c) The quantum of iron ore imported by each of these countries during the last three years from India is as under :

(Qty. Lakh tonnes)

Country	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94 (Pro.) (Apr. '93~ Feb. '94)
Japan	183.02	157.88	147.36
S. Korea	37.04	41.87	36.64
China	16.37	34.70	34.67
Pakistan	4.02	3.22	4.53
Middle East	1.39	0.81	1.66
Malaysia	0.82	0.55	0.68

(SOURCC : MMTC)

(d) The quantum of iron ore procured from different iron ore mines in Orissa during these years by MMTC for export are as under :

(Qty. Lakh tonnes)

1991-92	19.77
1992-93	10.87
1993-94 (Pro. bi'nal)	11.21

Free Trade Zone areas in Karnataka

7363. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of free trade zone areas located in Karnataka;

(b) whether Government are considering to set up new free trade

zone areas in view of the increasing exports from Karnataka; and

(c) whether Government will consider converting Karwar Port as free trade zone in Karnataka ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUK-HERJEE) : (a) to (c) Presently there are seven Export Processing Zones/ Free Trade Zone in the country at Bombay (Maharashtra), Kandla (Gujarat), Cochin (Kerala), Madras (Tamil Nadu), Falta (West Bengal), Noida (Uttar Pradesh) and Viskha-patnam (Andhra Pradesh).

Keeping in view the availability of funds and the need to optimise infrastructural facilities in the existing Zones, it would not be possible, at present, for the Central Government to consider developing new zones in the country. However, the Central Government has recently decided to permit establishment of Export Processing Zones through private sector or State Government participation.

Export target for current year

7364. MISS SAROJ KHAPAR-DE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Minister of Commerce has recently given a clear indication of his preference for setting the current year's export target at around 25 per cent as per the news item in the Times of India dated 19th May, 1994 captioned "Government for targetting 25 per cent export growth" ;

(b) if so, what is the actual export target for 1994-95, as finally decided by the Ministry; and

(c) what is the export target for 1994-95 as projected by the Finance Ministry ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUK-HERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Export targets for various sectors for the current year are being considered in consultation with the concerned organisations of trade and industry.

Export targets for various items

7365. SHRI IQBAL SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of targets of exports for different items for the year 1994-95; and

(b) what effective measures Government propose to take to achieve the same in this respect ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUK-HERJEE) : (a) Export targets for 1994-95 have not been fixed.

(b) Broad measures are reflected in the Export and Import Policy 1992—97, as amended and announce; on 31 -3-94. Specific measures will be devised to achieve the targets being fixed.

Ban on sale of sugar to India by Pakistan

7366. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Pakistan Government have recently banned the sale of sugar to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government with respect to new avenues for the import of sugar from other countries to ensure adequate availability through the PDS?