

Description	<i>(Qty in Tons)</i>		
	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
Almonds fresh or dried in shell (08021100)	16678	17632	24367
Shelled almonds fresh or dried (08021200)	2763	2726	3747

(b) and (c) Almond is mainly being imported from Australia, Iran and USA. Afghanistan constituted only less than 10% of India's imports of almonds during the last two years. The Afghanistan war is, therefore, not likely to have any serious impact on the almond trade

SEZ in Saurashtra, Gujarat

†1539. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any applications from the Government of Gujarat/Members of Parliament and other Organizations to setup Special Economic Zones (SEZ) in the Saurashtra area;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by Government in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) to (c) A Special Economic Zone is already functional in Kandla in Kutch region. Further, approval has been given for setting up of a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) at Positra in Saurashtra on the basis of proposal received from M/s Gujarat Positra Port Infrastructure Ltd. and supported by the Government of Gujarat. There is no other proposal pending with the Central Government for setting up of any other SEZ in Saurashtra region of Gujarat.

Special export promotion package

1540. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a special export promotion package for exporters has been announced after August, 2001;

(b) whether it consists of any measures to promote export of marine products, spices and rubber;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the export of marine products are badly slashed resulting in loss of huge amount of foreign exchange due to the war in Afghanistan; and

(f) if so, the details of measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. A number of measures have been taken to boost exports which include reduction in export credit rate for both pre-shipment and post-shipment, special interest rate package to manufacturer exporters with an export contract of Rs. 100 crore or above for a period of one year from October 2001, extension of normal repatriation period from 180 days to 360 days for exports made to Latin American countries for a period of one year, upward revision of drawback rates, removal of value caps under the DEPB Scheme and extension of the export obligation period by six months.

(e) An accurate assessment of the impact of war in Afghanistan on our marine exports can be made only on receipt of export data for October and November, 2001. However, the September 11, 2001 incidents in USA have affected our marine product exports as is evident from the export data given below:

	September, 2001	September, 2000	% change
Quantity (in tonnes)	28548	33003	-13.5
Value (in Rs.Crores)	397.12	585.92	-32.2
Value (in US \$ million)	82.73	128.92	-35.8

SOURCE: Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)

(f) MPEDA has been organising seminars in various centres in India to educate the exporters about the scope of increasing exports of marine products even during the current crisis period. Besides, market intelligence is collected through their trade promotion office in New York and disseminated to the trade from time to time.

Export of wheat and sugar

1541. PROF. M.M.AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the latest stock position of wheat and sugar for export to foreign countries;