

The broad approach of the Government is to provide for a policy framework which is helpful in increasing exports, particularly in the thrust sectors. In this connection, Government has taken a series of measures to facilitate the increased capacity for export production especially to upgrade technology to make export sector more competitive through improved access to capital goods and raw materials at or near international prices and by providing fiscal and monetary incentives for exports. Simultaneously continuous dialogue is being maintained with the Export Promotion Councils and Commodity Boards. In addition, the Ministry holds regular Open House meetings where constraints faced by the exporters are discussed.

Scheme for flood control in Orissa

*59. SHRI KAHNU CHARAN LENKA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Orissa Government has submitted any scheme to the Central Government for flood control in that State;

(b) if so, what are the details of the scheme and the expenditure to be incurred thereon; and

(c) what action the Central Government have so far taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) to (c) Recently, Mahanadi Delta Development Plan comprising among others flood control component envisaging protection to an area of 5.2 lakh hectares and a population of 30.25 lakhs at an estimated cost of about Rs. 123 crores has been received at the Centre. The proposal is under examination.

Modification of FERA Provisions

*60. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to modify FERA regulations to enlarge trade, ensure greater flow of foreign investment and to step up India's joint ventures abroad; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b) Government have no proposal at present to amend the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA), 1973. Guidelines issued under FERA are kept under review and suitable modifications are made from time to time to meet the requirements of trade, investment and Joint Ventures abroad, as necessary.

Implementation of irrigation advancement programme in Orissa

334. SHRI KAHNU CHARAN LENKA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects undertaken with Central assistance under Irrigation Advancement Programme in Orissa during the Seventh Plan period; and

(b) the achievements made and the assistance given by the Central Government so far on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) and (b) Central assistance amounting Rs. 21.47 crores was given to the Government of Orissa under the Irrigation Advancement Programme during VII Plan for two projects viz. Mahanadi Delta Project and Tank Irrigation. As reported by the State, additional irrigation potential of 39,290 ha. has been created by the Mahanadi

Delta Project and 4534 ha. under the Tank Irrigation.

Export of Textiles to Japan

335. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is vast scope of export of textiles to Japan;

(b) if so, what action has been taken in this regard;

(c) what are the names of the countries that are importing Indian textiles at present; and

(d) the quantum of foreign exchange earned as a result thereof during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government and various Textile Export Promotion Councils have taken several measures to increase textile exports to Japan. These include:—

(i) Visit of high level delegations to Japan to study the Japanese markets.

(ii) Participation in various fairs/Exhibitions/Buyer Seller Meets in Japan.

(iii) Holding of seminars on potentials for export to Japan.

(iv) Visit of Japanese fashion technicians/designers to India to train Indian exporters etc.

(c) Almost all countries import textiles from India. The major importers include EEC member countries, USA, USSR, JAPAN, Bangladesh, Australia etc.

(d) The export of Textiles excluding jute and handicrafts from India during the last three years are as given below:—

Year	Value (in Rs. Crores)
1987-88	3814
1988-89	4398
1989-90	6500

(Sources: Textile Export Promotion Councils.)

Rise in the Prices of Steel

336. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government are aware that prices of all categories of steel have soared by an average of Rs. 1200/- per tonne during the last three months;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the rise in prices of steel;

(c) whether the price rise has affected the cost of construction of houses; if so, to what extent;

(d) whether this price rise has also affected the general price level; and

(e) if so, what steps have been taken to check the steel prices?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) to (e) Open market prices of iron and steel fluctuate on the basis of demand and supply from time to time and levels of JPC prices. There is no direct or indirect regulation on the prices of the output of the producers in the secondary sector; they fix their own prices. The JPC prices for main steel producers are adjusted by the Joint Plant Committee (JPC) from time to time to neutralise the increases in input costs and other levies. There is no such increase in the prices of steel items produced by the integrated steel plants in the last three months. There is, however, an open market premium which varies from place to place and time to time,