

by Government to explore the possibilities of diverting the west flowing rivers in Kerala to Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether there is any proposal to constitute an All India River Board to monitor the utility of river waters;

(c) if so, when the proposal is expected to materialise; and

(d) if there is no such proposal what are the proposals envisaged by Government to make the best use of the available river waters in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INDEPENDENT CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) A preliminary feasibility report for linking of rivers in Kerala viz. Pamba & Achankovil to the Vaigai river in Tamil Nadu has been prepared.

(b) to (d) The National Water Development Agency has already been established in 1982 to promote scientific development for optimum utilisation of water resources in the country.

Foreign Trade

313. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state ;

(a) the total Value of annual exports, imports and trade deficit during the year 1987, 1988, 1989, yearwise and the prevailing trend in the months of January and February; and

(b) what steps Government have taken to maintain the present favourable trend in foreign trade?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) The details of total value of exports, imports and trade deficit during the financial years 1987-88, 1988-89, 1989-90 (April-December) and in the months of January and February 1987, 1988 and 1989 are as under:

(Value Rs. Crores)

Year	Exports	Imports	Trade Deficit
1987-88	15741.23	22243.74	- 6502.51
1988-89	20295.15	28193.65	- 7898.50
1989-90 (P) (April-Dec.)	19254.85	24773.30	- 5518.45
Jan. 1987	1014.57	1686.27	- 67.17
Jan. 1988	1367.75	1752.85	- 385.10
Jan. 1989	1959.65	2425.60	- 465.95
Feb. 1987	1141.00	1636.34	- 495.34
Feb. 1988	1316.95	1769.42	- 452.47
Feb. 1989	1883.34	2303.40	- 420.08

(P) Provisional

(b) The Government has initiated a series of steps to make exports commercially viable through upgrading industrial capability, ensuring supply of raw materials at competitive prices, strengthening infrastructural areas and simplifying the procedures.

Steps to arrest inflation

314. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what positive steps are being taken by Government to arrest the prevailing inflation in the country; and

(b) what was the value of the present rupee as on 31st December, 1989 with respect to the value at the end of the years 1950, 1960, 1970 and 1980?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE):

(a) The Government has adopted a package of measures to keep prices under check. These include, maintaining supplies of essential commodities through public distribution system, augmenting domestic supplies through imports as feasible, exercising strict fiscal and monetary discipline and action against hoarders and black-marketeers.

(b) The requisite information on value of rupee, measured as the reciprocal of the Consumer Price Index (1960-100), is given below:

Period	Value of Rupee
(end December)	(in Paise)
1950	121.95
1960	98.04
1970	53.76
1980	24.51
1989	11.59

Cost differences between Pepsi Plant and that of Jagatjit Industries

315. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU:

SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the potato chips and snack food plant of Pepsi is costing Rs. 5.52 crores CIF and total project cost Rs. 1842 crore whereas the plant of Jagatjit Industries, NOIDA plant is costing Rs. 1.71 crore CIF and total project cost Rs. 4.04 crores;

(b) what are the capacities of these two plants; and

(c) what is the reason for such a large difference.

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV):

(a) According to the information furnished by M/s. Pepsi Foods Private Limited the cost of potato chips and snack food plant is Rs. 5.52 crores c.i.f. and total project cost is Rs. 18.42 crores. In the case of Jagatjit Industries, NOIDA, plant, the cost of the plant has been indicated as 1.78 crores c.i.f. and the total project cost at Rs. 4.93 crores.

(b) and (c) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Issue of blanket permits by RBI

316. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the MINISTER of FINANCE be pleased to state: