

Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, whereas the matters relating to the export of the cashew are being looked after by the Cashew Export Promotion Council of India, set up under the Department of Commerce. The Government has not taken a decision to constitute any new Commodity Board at present.

(d) The main export promotion schemes, which include promotion of cashew also, are as under:-

- (i) Marketing Development Assistance and Market Access Initiatives for publicity and participation in fairs/delegations abroad.
- (ii) Assistance to States for Infrastructure Development of Exports (ASIDE): Assistance for creation of infrastructure.
- (iii) Plan Schemes: Assistance to exporters for upgrading their manufacturing facilities. The annual export income of the cashew and its products for the year 2009-10 is Rs. 2,930 crore.

Fiscal incentives for export of engineering products

3057. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the export of engineering products and handicrafts to various countries during the last five years, year-wise and product-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that exporters of engineering products and handicrafts are still facing export problems in view of demand crunch;

(c) if so, whether it is a fact that the above sectors are demanding fiscal incentives to tide over the crisis; and

(d) if so, what steps the Ministry has taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) A Statement is given. (See below).

(b) Yes, Sir. Exports of Engineering and Handicraft sectors have declined by about 19% and 31% respectively in US \$ terms in 2009-10 in comparison to the corresponding period of 2008-09.

(c) and (d) Engineering and Handicraft Sectors have been seeking additional support from the Government. Government and RBI have been closely monitoring the economic developments in the country and internationally on a continuous basis. Government has sought to provide support/incentives to the different export sectors which have been adversely affected by the global economic slowdown. Accordingly, various measures including need based incentives have been taken by the Government and RBI in the form of stimulus packages including the announcements made in the Budget, 2009-10 and 2010-11; in the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP), 2009-14; and thereafter in January/March 2010; and in Annual Supplement 2010-11 to FTP announced on 23.8.2010.

Statement

*Principal Commodity-wise India's Exports of "Engineering Products" and
'Handicrafts' during 2005-06 to 2009-10, value in Rs. crores*

Principal Commodity	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Ferro Alloys	1179.75	1642.78	4484.95	6878.15	4139.45
Aluminium othr than prdcts	951.47	1434.23	1885.58	2335.08	2643.24
Non-Ferrous Metals	5933.94	15774.02	12277.46	9258.30	10316.98
Manufactures of Metals	18742.04	22992.16	28389.05	34716.67	26202.99
Machine Tools	1020.17	1160.40	1350.27	1722.41	1316.12
Machinery and Instruments	22480.04	30420.34	36750.33	50341.86	45256.25
Transport Equipments	19139.28	22398.22	28282.06	51297.79	46609.84
Residual Engineering Items	305.84	348.31	371.46	666.95	649.82
IRONnSTL Bar/Rod ETCn Frro Aloy	2504.01	3890.76	5204.47	5006.50	3477.38
Pmry and Semi-Fnshd Iron and STL	13205.60	19813.73	16723.63	21774.09	13707.73
Handcrfs (Excl. Handmade CRPTS)	2045.34	1981.91	2046.21	1384.19	1066.57
GRAND TOTAL	87507.49	121856.87	137765.48	185381.99	155386.36

Legal status of press notes

3058. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the policy statements issued by Government as press notes are legally enforceable;
- (b) if so, the legal status of policy statements;
- (c) whether import and export policies are announced as press notes; and
- (d) if so, the legal status of such press notes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion has been announcing decisions made by Government on matters relating to Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy, through issue of Press Notes/Press Releases/Circulars, from time to time. Such decisions are subsequently notified by the Reserve Bank of India in the relevant regulations under FEMA, which are enforceable.