

(a) whether the Government of India have received a detailed report in regard to the desecration of idols of Hindu deities in a procession in Salem city in Tamil Nadu by the Dravida Kazhgam from the Tamil Nadu Government?

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action, if any, taken by the Central Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS/

गृह मंत्रालय में राज्य मन्त्र:

(SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) to (c). According to the information received from the State Government, a procession was taken out at Salem as a part of the Conference on "Eradication of Superstitious Beliefs" sponsored by the Dravida Kazhagam, in which pictures of indu gods and goddesses were displayed in a manner highlighting what the sponsors of the Conferene considered "the irrational aspect" in the Hindu religion. A case under section 153A and 295A IPC has been registered by the police in respect of the incident and is under investigation.

INDIA'S FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNINGS
FROM JUTE GOODS

1126. SHRI R. P. KHAITAN: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE/ विदेश व्यापार मंत्री be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of foreign exchange earned by India from jute goods during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that India is losing world markets in this trade; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to step up exports of jute goods?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE/

विदेश व्यापार मंत्रालय में उपमन्त्री:

(SHR A. C. GEORGE): (a) The value of export of jute goods during 1968-69; 1969-70 and 1970-71 was of the order of Rs. 217.25 crores, Rs 206.09

crores and Rs. 183.64 crores, respectively.

(b) Exports of jute goods from India have declined.

(c) Steps have been taken to improve the production and yield of jute and mesta. A good crop is expected in 1971-72. Diversification/modernisation is being encouraged through soft loans from the I.F.C., and this is expected to increase exports of carpet backing cloth. Export prospects for the current financial year are good.

EXPORT DRIVE FOR AUTOMOBILE GOODS

1127. SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE/ विदेश व्यापार मन्त्र be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to launch a dynamic export drive in respect of automobile ancillary to achieve the target of Rs. 100 crores annually;

(b) if so, the details of the measures Government propose to take to achieve this aim;

(c) what is the present level of export of automobile and ancillary products; and

(d) whether Government have assured the Federation that all help will be given in to implement the programmes in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE Minister of FOREIGN TRADE/ विदेश व्यापार मंत्रालय में उपमन्त्री

(SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) Government are confident of the great potential that exists for the export of automobile ancillaries. However, the annual target for 1971-72 is Rs. 10 crores.

(b) A statement is attached.

(c) The export of automobile and ancillaries during the past three years have been:—

(Value Rs. in Crores)

Year	Auto- mobile	Ancillaries	Total
1968-69	2.33	3.17	5.50
1969-70	10.20	4.14	14.34
1970-71	15.66	5.29	20.9