

(b) the names of the countries to which these are being exported;

(c) the value of dry fruits/fruits exported last year and the amount of foreign exchange earned thereby;

(d) the target fixed for the export of these commodities during the current year; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government to promote export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI AR-ANGIL SHREEDHARAN): (a) and (b). Walnuts among dry fruits and mangoes, grapes, apples, oranges, citrus fruits, water melons etc. among fresh fruits are being exported from India. Walnuts are exported mainly to Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait Qatar and UK while fresh fruits are exported to Oman, Kuwait, UAE, Saudia Arabia, Bahrain and Bangladesh.

(c) The quantity and the foreign exchange earned on export of walnuts/fresh fruits during 1988-89 are as under:

	<i>Qty (in Tons) (provision)</i>	<i>Val. (In Lakhs) (Provision)</i>
Fresh mango and other fruits	60,000	4,500
Dry fruits	7,536	576

Figures for dry fruits are for 1986-87
SOURCE: APEDA.

(d) No individual target has been fixed for specific items for the current year.

(e) Steps taken by Government to promote export include grant of Cash Compensatory Support and import replenishment, organising buyer-seller meets, participation in international exhibitions for developing new markets etc.

Investment of Provident Fund Amount of Non-Government Employees

9356. PROF. MAHADEO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether recommendations have been received from state Governments to revive the scheme in regard to investment of Provident Fund amount of non-Government

Employees which was in force prior to 1986.

(b) whether Government propose to reintroduce the scheme in force prior to 1986; and

(c) if not, the impediments in the way of reintroduction thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) Yes, Sir. Suggestions have been received from some State Governments to revive the pattern of investment by non-Government Employees Provident Fund, which was in force prior to 1986.

(b) and (c). There is no proposal to reintroduce the scheme which was in force prior to 1986. The Government have however, introduced new schemas like Indira

Vikas Patra, Kisan Vikas Patra, Post Office Monthly Income Scheme, and National Saving Scheme to improve the collections. On account of these instruments, the net collections have considerably increased. Besides, the loans to State Governments against the net small savings collections have been increased from 66.6% to 75% with effect from 1.4.1987.

[English]

Export of Polyester Staple Fibre

9357. SHRI N.J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Rayon and Synthetics Fibres Committee, Paris, has strongly protested over Indian Companies exporting polyester staple fibre to Europe and the U.S.;

(b) if so, the changes made by Committee;

(c) whether the changes made have been looked into by Government of India, and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI AR-ANGIL SHREEDHARAN): (a) to (d). The

International Rayon and Synthetic Fibres Committee, Paris, is reported to have sought information from the Synthetic and Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council of India regarding prices at which Polyester Staple Fibre is being exported from India to Europe on the Ground that export prices of the product from India appear to be substantially lower than European Prices.

In response, the Synthetic and Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council has provided information to the International Rayon and Synthetic Fibres Committee regarding prices at which information confirms that the charges regarding underselling by the Indian exporters are unfounded. So far, Government of India have not received any representation from either the exporters or importers in this regard.

Cardamom Production

9358. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO:
SHRI C.P. MUDALAGRI-
YAPPA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the state-wise production of cardamom during the last two years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI AR-ANGIL SHREEDHARAN): The estimates of production of cardamom during the last two year are as under:

<i>Small Cardamom</i>	<i>M.T.s.</i>	
	<i>1988-89</i>	<i>1989-90</i>
Kerala	2820	1925
Karnataka	1000	745
Tamil Nadu	430	450
	4250	3120