

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Cannanore and Mahe Textile Mills

4191. SHRI MULIAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to revive the Cannanore Spinning, and weaving Mills at Cannanore, Kerala and its subsidiary at Mahe; and

(b) if so, the amount likely to be allocated for the renovation/expansion or revival of these mills under NTC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) Government has already approved a Turn Around Strategy for NTC mills involving modernisation of 79 mills at an investment of Rs. 2005.72 crores. This includes modernisation of Cannanore Mills, Cannanore at an investment of Rs.10.52 crores. The revised Turn Around Strategy has been placed before the BIFR for their approval before implementation. In regard to Cannanore Mills at Mahe, NTC had already taken up modernisation of this mill during the 7th plan period at a cost of Rs.3.85 crores. This mill has earned net profit during the last two years.

National Commission of Bonded and Child Labour

4192. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representation for the establishment of a National Commission on Bonded and Child Labour for monitoring the effective implementation of the relevant laws enacted for prohibition, regulation, liberation and rehabilitation of such labour and for advising the Government on policy and further remedial measures; and

(b) if so, the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter of setting up of National Commission of Bonded Labour was placed before the State Labour Ministers Conference in 1992 which decided to refer this issue to a Committee of 13 State Labour Ministers under the Chairmanship of Labour Minister of Maharashtra. As the Committee could not meet due to various reasons, the Union Labour Minister called the meeting of State Labour Ministers concerned on 18.5.1995 in New Delhi. This was preceded by a meeting of State Labour Secretaries on 17.5.1995. The general consensus which emerged following lengthy deliberations was that in view of the National Human Rights Commission having been set up, there was no need for a separate Commission on Bonded Labour. The Government having duly considered the recommendation have decided to accept it.

The Government have taken several steps to tackle the problem of Child Labour. A National Authority for the Elimination of Child Labour under the Chairmanship of

Union Labour Minister has been constituted in September, 1994. The approach of the Government is to implement all the child related provisions of the law in harmonious fashion. As such, it is felt that there is no need to set up a National Commission on Child Labour.

Export of Raw Cotton

4193. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently decided to allow export of one lakh bales of raw cotton;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the export of raw cotton is likely to affect adversely India's competitive edge in exporting cotton-based textiles and the foreign exchange therefrom;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Indian Cotton Mills Federation (ICMF) has expressed great resentment and strongly criticised the aforesaid decision of the Government;

(f) if so, the details of the view points of ICMF; and

(g) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) As in previous years the Government has allowed the export of one lakh bales of Bengal Deshi cotton. In addition in order to encourage modernisation in the ginning and pressing sector, a quota of one lakh bales for export by modern ginning and pressing units been announced.

(c) to (g) The Indian Cotton Mills Federation (ICMF) had recently represented that if exports of cotton are allowed, the financial viability of textile units would be adversely affected.

The Government policy is to allow export of cotton only after assessment has been made of the production, domestic availability and demand, keeping in view the interests of the growers, on the one hand, and the requirement of different categories of consumers, particularly those in the decentralised Sectors, on the other.

Smuggling of RDX

4194. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity and the value of RDX recovered from the different parts of the country during the last one year;

(b) the number of persons arrested in this regard and the action taken against them; and

(c) the details of the stern action taken by the Government to check the smuggling of R.D.Xs. in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Anti-Smuggling agencies of the Central Government and State Governments are alert to detect and prevent all smuggling including smuggling of RDX. Steps taken to prevent smuggling of RDX include intensive patrolling of coastal areas and close coordination among various enforcement agencies of Central Government and State Governments to act in a concentrated manner to thwart such attempts.

Friendly Service to the Income Tax Payers

4195. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have issued fresh guidelines to the Income Tax Department to provide timely and customer friendly service to the tax payers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) and (b) Providing of timely and customer friendly service to the tax payers is a continuous process. The Central Board of Direct Taxes has from time to time issued guidelines and directions to the field authorities in respect of prompt issue of refunds, attending to rectification/appeal effect proceedings, polite and courteous conduct particularly during survey and search proceedings, attending to grievances of the tax payers etc.

Each Commissioner of Income-tax Charge has the Office of Public Relation Officer which provides assistance to the tax payers. In addition, Grievance Cells have been set up in CBDT as well as in Chief Commissioners' regions.

Export of Lichi

4196. SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of Lichi exported and the foreign exchange earned therefor during 1995, country-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of Lichi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The quantity of Lichi exported and the foreign exchange earned country-wise during 1995 (April to June) are as under :

	Qty. in kg.	Value in Rs.
	Qty	Value
Kenya	48	2964
Kuwait	300	18203
Switzerland	500	42269
	848	63436

(Source DGCI&S Calcutta)

(b) Steps taken for enhancing the exports of fresh fruits including lichi are :-

- (i) Efforts have been made to establish post-harvest facilities for processing lichies for exports. Exports from Australia and France were also invited for advise on the post-harvest management of this fruit.
- (ii) Providing financial assistance for development of infrastructure such as refrigerated/insulated vans and setting up of pre-cooling/cold storage units;
- (iii) Providing financial assistance for export promotion and market development;
- (iv) Sending delegations of exporters to lichi growing countries like Madagascar to expose them to the practices of cultivation, post-harvest management and exports of lichi.
- (v) Participation in International fairs/exhibitions.
- (vi) Air Freight subsidy for export of fresh lichi for the period from 1.9.1995 to 31.3.1996.
- (vii) Supply of quality planting material and training of formers under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on intergrated development of tropical, temperate and Arid Zone fruits (including lichi).

Board of Directors of S.B.I.

4197. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Guwahati circle of the State Bank of India has been operating without a Board of Directors for the last several years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the full time Directors are likely to be appointed there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Members nominated earlier on the Guwahati Local Board of State Bank of India have either resigned from the Board or ceased to be Members on the Board on their demise.

(c) Government have initiated action for filling up these vacancies.

Development of Places of Pilgrimage

4198. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the amount received from abroad for the development of the places of pilgrimage during each of the last three years, separately and the names of the Countries from which amount has been received;