

any request to the Union Government to purchase cashew kernel from Kerala State Cashew Development Corporation for export purpose;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Explosive Units

4405. SHRI B. DHARMA BIKSHAM : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state the state-wise details of the total number of explosives manufacturing Units in the country?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : The state-wise distribution of the explosives manufacturing units (other than fire works manufacturing units) in the country is as follows :-

State	No. of Units
Andhra Pradesh	11
Bihar	5
Haryana	2
Himachal Pradesh	1
Karnataka	2
Madhya Pradesh	10
Maharashtra	15
Orissa	8
Rajasthan	4
Tamil Nadu	2
Uttar Pradesh	5
West Bengal	1
Total	66

Securities Scam

4406. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made so far and the present status of investigation/enquiries conducted in regard to the Security Scam;

(b) the names of foreign as well as Indian banks reported to have been involved in the Scam;

(c) the quantum of money that has been recovered so far; and

(d) the details of obstacles coming in the way of the recovery?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has reported that so far 70 banks scam related cases have been registered out of which chargesheets have been filed in 33 cases and 18 cases are under various stages of investigation. The remaining cases have been disposed off by recommending department action/action as deemed fit by the concerned bank etc.

(b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that they had imposed penalties/withdrew exemption given from maintenance of 10% incremental Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) in respect of 37 banks namely, State Bank of India, State Bank of Patiala, State Bank of Saurashtra, State Bank of Hyderabad, State bank of Mysore, Allahabad Bank, Andhra Bank, Bank of Baroda, Bank of India, Canara Bank, Central Bank of India, Corporation Bank, Indian Bank, Indian Overseas Bank, Punjab National Bank, Syndicate Bank, UCO Bank, Vijaya Bank, Bank of Madura Ltd., Federal Bank Ltd., Karur Vysys Bank Ltd., Lord Krishna Bank., Nedungadi Bank Ltd., Karnataka Bank Ltd., Vysya Bank Ltd., ANZ Grindlays Bank plc., Citi Bank N.A., Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, Standard Chartered Bank, bank of America National Trust and Savings Association, Banque Indosuez, Deutsche Bank, American Express Bank Ltd., Banque Nationale De Paris, British Bank of the Middle East, ABN Amro Bank N.V. and Oman International Bank S.A.

(c) and (d). As per the information available as on 31.7.1996, total approximate value of properties of notified persons attached under the Special Court (Trial of Offences Relating to Transactions in Securities) Act, 1992 amounted to Rs. 2674 crores. The properties attached are to be disposed in accordance with the priorities laid down in the said Act by the order of the Special Court. Some of the provisions of the Act including the order of priorities laid down have been challenged in Courts.

[Translation]

Indo-US Alliance Meeting

4407. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :
SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH :
DR. ASIM BALA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated October 19, 1996 under the caption "Indo-US Alliance extended";

(b) whether India is aiming at capital formation of about 30 per cent of gross domestic product which is higher than the domestic savings rate of about 24 per cent;

(c) whether US ambassador in India has felt that US would like greater Patent protection in India;

(d) if so, the details of other issues discussed and the outcome thereof alongwith the officials agencies/ industrial sectors participated in the above meeting; and

(e) the steps Government propose to take to meet the Indo-US alliance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir.

(d) to (e). The Term of the Indo-US Alliance has been extended by two years for the period from January 16th, 1997 to January 15th, 1999. The Agreement for this was signed between the two Governments on October 16, 1996 in Washington DC at the Board Meeting of the Indo-US Commercial Alliance.

The Alliance encompasses trade associations as well as large & small businesses and provides a general frame work for increased inter-action in various sectors between private sector enterprises of both the countries for expanding trade & commercial ties. The Alliance is presently focussing on four sectors, namely, information technology, transportation and infrastructure, agri-business and power. The Board has agreed to consider including environmental technologies as an additional focus sector and also give additional emphasis to small and medium sized businesses. The Alliance is likely to further consolidate its achievements and build on new synergies between the India and US businesses for expanded, mutually-beneficial commercial linkages.

[English]

Electronic Data Interchange

4408. SHRI SANAT MEHTA :
SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Electronic Data Interchange has been installed at Delhi Customs House for the efficient working of export business by the exporters;

(b) if so, whether the paper work load of exporters has been reduced to some extent with the installation of this system;

(c) if not, the efforts being made by the Government to make the system more efficient and to reduce the paper work load of exporters;

(d) whether Government propose to install more Electronic Data Interchange at other major Custom Houses in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Customs clearance procedure of exports under this system has resulted in reduced paper work.

The working of the procedure is reviewed on on-going basis to effect improvements.

(d) and (e). Government proposes to extend the system to other Custom Houses and Air Cargo Complexes at Mumbai, Chennai, Calcutta, Kandla, Nhava Sheva, Vishakapatnam, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Cochin, Goa, Tuticorin, Mangalore, Ahmedabad and the process will be completed by the end of 1997.

Hike in Wages of Sick PSUs

4409. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Public Enterprises has recommended that wage hikes for executives and non unionised supervisors be allowed for public sector units which are under the BIFR;

(b) if so, whether the Govt. have considered the proposal; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). As per the extent guidelines on pay revision, w.e.f. 1.1.92, it is stipulated that for sick enterprises registered with BIFR, pay revision and grant of other benefits will be allowed only if it is decided to revive the unit. The revival package should include the enhanced liability on this account. This matter, however, is under review.

Loan from ADB

4410. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently received the Loan from the Asian Development Bank at concessional rate;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the mode of repayment of the loan?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The Government has not received any loan assistance from ADB on concessional terms;

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

I.M.F. and W.B. Loan to India

4411. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN :
SHRI ANANT KUMAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of loans drawn by India from IMF and World Bank and other foreign financial institutions as on date;