

the marine products. One of the reasons which I would like to bring to the notice of the Minister is that there is not sufficient promotion of cashew products to the Western countries where we have good marketing and the schemes that have been contemplated for the cashew cultivation with the help of the World Market have not been taken up by the Government of India so far. Therefore, we have to depend on other countries for the import of raw-nuts. I would like to know whether the Government has any scheme to promote the cashew production by indigenous method with the help of the World Bank for which a scheme has already been there before the Government of India which has been approved and sent by the Kerala Government.

**SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED :** Since Cashew is a horticulture crop, the main responsibility for its regulation, production remains not with the Central Government but with the Government of Kerala; not with our Ministry but with the Ministry of Agriculture. A five-year World Bank assisted programme of area development from 1982-83 to 1986-87 has rejuvenated trees and also helped to increase acreage under Cashew in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. The results in harvest have just begun to show. We need greater interaction between the Central Government and the State of Kerala. We have already initiated plans and steps in this regard.

#### **Assistance from Foreign Agencies for Improvement of Exports**

\*172. **SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any monitoring and coordinating agency to improve the export position of our country;

(b) whether any assistance has been sought from some foreign agencies to help in increasing our exports;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have received any memorandum from the garment exporters regarding their problems; and

(e) if so, the action taken thereon?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM):** (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### **STATEMENT**

(a) The Ministry of Commerce functions as the central monitoring and coordinating agency to improve the export position of our country.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Assistance is sought from time to time from various international agencies such as Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation (CFTC), London, European Economic Community (EEC), Brussels, etc, as also from our major trading partners for increasing our exports.

(d) and (e) Government have been receiving a number of representations from the garment exporters from time to time on various problems being faced by them and appropriate actions have been taken on such representations where found necessary.

**SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV:** Sir, the answer given by the Minister is very evasive. Really speaking, I had asked what are the main points in the representation of the garment exporters and the problems they are facing and what concrete actions the Government has taken to increase the garment exports particularly in view of the latest decision of the Government by which you are withdrawing the export subsidy. Garment being one of the major items of our export in which India has a name, what concrete actions the Government is taking to increase the garment exports and also to increase the quota fixed by the EEC.

**SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM:** Sir, these representations come from time to time. I can share with the hon. Members some of the decisions which have been taken recently by the Ministry of Textiles in consultation with us on the representations of garment exporters.

Firstly, Sir, they wanted the Blanket Advance Licensing Scheme to be liberalised. This has been done. The Blanket Advance Licensing Scheme has been made applicable to garment exporters having an average NFE earning of Rs. 2 crores and above during the last three years.

Secondly, they wanted revision of input-output norms under Advance Licensing Scheme. We have increased the REP rate for Advance Licence from 10 per cent of Net Foreign Earnings to 20 per cent of Net Foreign Earnings.

Thirdly, they wanted duty concessions for trimmings and embellishments. This was earlier 10 per cent of the 20 per cent NFE. Now it is 10 per cent of 30 per cent NFE. Therefore, they have three per cent for trimmings and embellishments.

Fourthly, they wanted duty-free import of machinery. Both my colleague Shri Ashok Gehlot and I have strongly recommended to the Finance Minister that there must be a duty-free import of textile machinery with an export obligation to run into seven years. Unfortunately, the Finance Minister in the Budget has not accepted it. But both my colleague Gehlotji and I will persist in the matter and try to see whether duty-free import can be allowed. They wanted minimum export prices. Gehlotji has already announced that the minimum export prices in terms of dollars will become effective from 1-1-92. We will consider each one of them. If the hon. Member has anything particular in mind, please write to me and I will answer that point.

**SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV:** Sir, the EEC has fixed a quota

for Indian garments. I would like to know whether the Government of India has proposed to increase that.

**SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM:** This is governed by the Multi-Fibre Agreement. They want MFA to continue and we want it to be terminated. We are now discussing it. Under GATT, we expect MFA to be rolled over for some time to time before an agreement is reached on how to wind it up; the moment MFA is in force, we cannot ask for anything more than what is prescribed in that. The details about it are with the Ministry of Textiles.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

##### **Export of Iron Ore through Paradeep Port**

\*165. **SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of Iron ore allotted to Paradeep Port to be handled and exported during 1990-91 and 1991-92; and

(b) how it compares with the corresponding figures for the last two years?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM):** (a) and (b) Iron ore targetted for export and actual exports through Paradeep Port during 1990-91 and 1991-92 as also during the earlier two years are:

(in lakh tonnes)

Year	Target	Actual exports
1988-89	14.00	16.40
1989-90	18.75	20.97
1990-91	22.50	16.97
1991-92	20.10	5.40
		(up to 15-7-91)