

agricultural country, depending mainly on primary agricultural products for its exports, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is providing an special types of incentives for export variety of rice.

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED: Agricultural produce is taken as one of the thrust areas in the new Export Policy. The Exim Scrips introduced under the new Export Policy have come as a great boon to agricultural exporters. Since virtually no import input goes into agricultural produce, the bonus of getting the Exim Scrips is a very major incentive to the agricultural exporters and these include the exporters of rice as well.

SHRI GANGADHARA SANIPALLI: After the economic reforms, is there any increase in the demand for rice in the international market?

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED: prior to the introduction of the new economic policies and devaluation of the Indian rupee, Indian rice was not found competitive in the world market. The prices of Indian rice now are found very highly competitive and therefore, there is a tremendous demand for Indian rice the world over. However, the quota that was available this year for exports was only 7 lakh tonnes, basically due to local requirements and ensuring that the local domestic prices do not soar because of our exports.

[*Translation*]

DR. P.R. GANGWAR: Mr. speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the kinds of rice besides Basmati exported, by India and to which countries.

[*English*]

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED: I may reiterate that the countries are basically from the Middle East...

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: He has asked about

kinds of rice being exported other than Basmati.

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED: Basically, there is much more demand of other kinds except Basmati. Now-a-days there is no demand for basmati rice. There is a heavy demand of different Varieties of rice such as P.R. 106, I.R. 64, Gaurav and Punjab no. 1.

[*English*]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, may I request the Minister to please amend his written answer as well as his answers to the supplementaries to change the expression Middle east to West Asia, which is the expression which we use in our country for very good political reasons.

MR. SPEAKER: Your suggestion will certainly be taken into consideration.

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED: Sir, this request and the suggestion, coming from an hon. member who is well versed in India's Foreign Policy, will be given the most serious attention.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to bring it to the notice of the hon. Minister that besides rice, sugar is also an essential commodity. It is produced in abundance in our State as well as in our country.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing this question.

Jewellery Complexes of MMTC

*329 **DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:**
SHRIMATI MAHENDRA KUMARI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation has set up 100 per cent export oriented Jewellery complexes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the MMTC propose to set up more such complexes;

(d) if so, the proposed locations thereof; and

(e) the time by which these complexes are likely to start functioning?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) MMTC has set up a 100% Export Oriented Jewellery Manufacturing Complex at Jhandewalan.

(c) Yes, sir.

(d) and (e). MMTC has acquired land for setting up a 100% EOU Complex at Calcutta in the Salt Lake Area. This complex is expected to be ready in three years after construction of building and completion of infrastructural facilities.

[*Translation*]

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister when was the hundred percent Export-Oriented Jewellery Complex set up at Jhandewalan and in what way did it affect export? Besides, which schemes have been started by M.M.T.C. to promote the gold Jewellery export and to improve their quality.

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED: First of all this Complex was set up at Jhandewalan in 1988 and its export went on increasing from 1988 to 1990. It was of the order of Rs. 5 crore in the beginning but we expect it to reach Rs. 25 crore mark this year. Besides, much facilities have been provided to it the M.M.C.T.C. provides gold. A facility to import gold directly has also been given to it. A new gold policy has been formulated. Under it

units in D.T.A. or domestic tariff area have been provided some facilities to import gold so that export of gold Jewellery can be promoted.

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know the Indian percentage of gold Jewellery export in international market.

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED: It is just a microscopic part now because there is a big market. So we are trying fully to promote it considering it a thrust area. We expect maximum export in gold area. We already export diamond in sufficient quantity.

SHRI KAMLA MISHRA MADHUKAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to divert the discussion to a subject to which the attention of the hon. Minister might have not been drawn by now. Jewellery is manufactured from shell of an oyster in Bihar but no facility has been provided for its export. I would like to know whether the government intends to formulate a scheme to provide facility of export of such Jewellery.

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED: This question is different from gold export so I need notice for it but I would like to say that we are ready to provide full facility to all exportable items. I request the hon. Member to submit the information, whatever he has, so that we can take proper action.

[*English*]

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, the highest exports are one from Mumbai. The major jewellery manufacturers are in Mumbai as well as in the adjoining Surat and other areas of Gujarat. There was a discussion earlier that a complex will be set up in Mumbai, near Bandra. I want to know whether the government is considering that proposal or that proposal has been rejected. It is because no mention has been made about this complex in the reply.

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED: Sir, we have explored setting up similar Complexes elsewhere. Unfortunately, we have tried in

Surat and Jaipur but we did not get a good response. Even today, we are open, if 20-25 manufacturers in areas which are known for good quality Jewellery come forward with a proposal, we will be very happy to consider that proposal.

[*Translation*]

SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, is it a fact that there has been a decline in the art of manufacturing Jewellery during the last 10 years which was passed over by one generation to the next generation? Is it also a fact that the government has imported Jewellery manufacturing machines under an agreement from Germany, Japan, and Italy which has rendered million of people jobless?

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED: I have no information about it.

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question were being asked about Jewellery. I would like to ask a question about brass industry. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: it is about Jewellery.

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH: Brass utensil in Mirzapur. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is not related to utensil but to Jewellery.

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH: If the people can live only by wearing Jewellery, I will not ask my question.

MR. SPEAKER: Please say so in your speech but not in question.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing. Please sit down.

(*Interruptions*)*

R & D projects of ERDI

[*Translation*]

*330. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether three research and development projects undertaken by the Electronic and Radar Development Institute have been called off prematurely;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the amount spent thereon;

(c) whether there is any coordination with other institutions working on the same projects; and

(d) if not, the action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The laboratory concerned is Electronics & Radar Development Establishment (LRDE), Bangalore.

(b) The main reasons were:

i) major objectives of these R & D competence projects had been achieved

ii) production agencies were engaged in development of similar systems

iii) requirement to divert financial resources to higher priority projects.

A total of Rs. 3.94 crores was spent as against sanction for Rs. 7.24. crores.

(c) yes, Sir.

(d) does not arise