

export potential of iron ore is also limited due to infrastructural constraints in India.

(c) Apart from facilitating long-term contracts and market diversification, Government has extended Exim Scrips benefit to all exports including iron ore and the benefit under Section 80 HHC of the Income Tax Act to exports of processed minerals. Further, iron ore of Redi origin has been de-canalised and iron ore of Goan origin can now be exported directly by Goan exporters to China and Europe in addition to their traditional markets of Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and West Europe.

(d) Exports of iron ore during the Eighth Plan period are estimated to range between 33 million to 36 million tonnes per year.

Outstanding Excise Duty against Industrialists

4084. SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the outstanding dues on account of excise duty against the top twenty Indian industrialists;

(b) the number of cases in respect of excise duty pending in Courts against these industrialists;

(c) the action being taken by the Government for recovery of excise duty from these industrialists; and

(d) the penal rules applied against these industrialists for recovery of outstanding excise duty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR):
(a) Rs. 260.39 Crores approximately.

(b) 288

(c) The outstanding amounts are generally linked with court cases and cases before Customs Excise and Gold Control Appellate Tribunal and in most of the cases recoveries have been stayed. The Courts/CEGAT are moved from time to time for early hearings and vacation of stays against recovery. Competent special counsels are engaged to defend Government's interests in cases involving important issues and heavy stakes.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Rise in prices of commodities of common use

4085. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the prices of most of the commodities of general use have increased after the presentation of the Budget;

(b) if so, the details of the pre-budget and post-budget prices of these commodities; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check the rise in the prices of the commodities of common use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) Details of the Wholesale Price Indices (Base : 1981-82=100) of commodities of general use before and after presentation of the Budget are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The steps taken/being taken by the Government to contain the rate of inflation include strict fiscal discipline, check on expansion of money