

(d) In order to boost country's marine exports, Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) has undertaken various developmental activities which include:

- i) Providing guidance and necessary assistance in increasing production through capture fisheries;
- ii) Development of culture fisheries for augmenting export production through aquaculture farms;
- iii) Encouraging the seafood entrepreneurs in setting up processing plants for exports of value-added products;
- iv) Dissemination of market intelligence pertaining to the seafood industry; and
- v) Administering various subsidy schemes of Government for modernising the sea-food export industry.

#### **Foreign Exchange Earnings from Export of Diamonds**

5259. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of foreign exchange earned by the Government by exporting diamonds during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether there is large scope to increase the export of diamonds;

(c) if so, the target set for 1991-92; and

(d) the steps taken to increase diamond export? •

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The year-wise value of exports for the last three years of cut and polished diamonds, according to the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council, was as follows:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Rs. in Crores</i>
1988-89	4238
1989-90	4972
1990-91	4739

(b) and (c). Diamond exports depend on the economic conditions in the countries that are our major buyers. Keeping in view the recessionary conditions in some of these countries and the depreciation in the Indian rupee, a tentative export target for 1991-92 of Rs. 5700 crores has been fixed.

(d) The Government has taken measures to facilitate supplies of imported raw material for export of diamonds. The adjustment in the exchange rate of the Indian rupee would also make our exports more competitive.

#### **Shortage of Fund in financial Institutions**

5260. SHRI RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH:  
SHRI CHETAN P.S.  
CHAUHAN:  
SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATH-  
ERIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Industrial Development Bank of India, Industrial Finance Corporation of India and Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India are facing the funds crunch;

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

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The three All-India term lending financial institutions viz. Industrial Development Bank of India (IDB), Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI), and Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) have reported that they are facing a resource constraint.

(b) The resource mobilisation difficulties of the financial institutions have arisen from a combination of circumstances which include their lending at administered, below market rates of interest (a stipulation which has recently been relaxed by Government), their consequent inability to borrow from the market at interest rates which cover their costs, the diminishing proportion of concessional interest rate borrowings which Government and the Reserve Bank of India are able to allocate to them, and the high growth rate in the demand for long term finance from industry. There are also certain reasons specific to each institution, like the discontinuance of the Investment Deposits Account Scheme from the current year, the lock-in period of Capital Bonds being over

and the resource needs of the Small Industries Development Bank of India, all of which affect the resources position of IDBI.

(c) Government has recently deregulated the interest rate structure for term lending by the financial institutions and this has provided a very large measure of flexibility to institutions to compete for funds on market related terms, thereby considerably easing their resources position.

### Christian Personal Laws

5261. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any representations for a change in the Christian Personal Laws pertaining to Marriage, Divorce, Succession and Adoption; and

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It will be possible for the Government to take a decision on the issue involved only after ascertaining the views of the Christian community as the policy of the Government is to introduce amendment in the personal law relating to any minority community only when the community concerned agrees to the same or a demand is made by that community for the same.