

been paid. If the Rajasthan Government sends any new proposal to the Central Government whether it relates to irrigation or hill-area or desert area, for the eighth plan, the Planning commission will consider it. The due importance will be given to it on the priority basis.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question has been raised in the context of the foreign aids to the backward states. Bihar is the most backward state of the country, where agriculture is frequently being affected from flood. In the tarai of Nepal...

MR. SPEAKER: You are deviating from the original question. The question relates to provide foreign aid to the backward states. You may ask directly as whether Bihar is being given foreign aid or not.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether foreign aid is being provided to Bihar for its flood-affected areas and whether the Government would give any priority to Bihar in the 8th Plan in respect of electricity, education and industries under foreign aid.

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this year also the necessary amount of foreign aid has been allocated to Bihar for its several going on projects. As regard the flood affected areas and the electricity, the Central Government will definitely consider any such proposal submitted by the State Government under the 8th Five-year plan.

SHRI VISHWESHWAR BHAGAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Madhya Pradesh is a backward state where Adivasis and Harijans are in large number. For the last two years, no amount has been provided to it under the foreign aid. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he would like to give an assurance that the funds would be made available to the proposals approved by the Madhya Pradesh Government under the 8th Plan?

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR: He has

stated two things. Firstly he said that nothing was given to Madhya Pradesh. According to the dates available with us there was a provision of Rs. 111 crores for M.P during 1990-91 under the head "Central Assistance for External Aided Projects". Out of which a total of Rs. 46 crores 13 lakhs have been utilized. In the current year of 1991-92 Rs. 21 crores 22 lakhs have already been allotted out of the total provision of Rs. 133 crores. As soon as the other proposals are received, they can be considered later on.

[English]

Export of Rice and other Cereals

*328. **SHRI GANGADHARA SANIPALLI:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the procedure for export of rice and other cereals has been streamlined recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of the countries which are the major importers of rice and other cereals from our country?

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

(b) non-basmati rice and some other cereals have been brought under Open General Licence and their export is allowed against registration-cum-Allocation Certificate issued by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA). There is no need now for obtaining Export Licence.

(c) Countries which are major importers of cereals from India are the Middle East countries of Saudi Arabia, U.A.E., Kuwait, Bahrain and Jordan. Apart from this, USSR, EEC countries DPR Korea and Nepal also import substantial quantities of cereals.

SHRI GANGADHARA SANIPALLI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, India being a primarily

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: