

[*Translation*]

Non Magnetic Steel Structural and Bulb Bars

4982. SHRIMATISUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether non-magnetic steel structural including bulb bars are being imported by the Navy;

(b) whether efforts have been made to produce these structurals indigenously;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) These items have not been imported since 1984.

(b) to (d). Non-magnetic steel plates and electrodes are now being manufactured indigenously. Indigenous development on non-magnetic bulb-bars has, however, not been possible due to the high development cost involved.

[*English*]

Export Quota of Non-Basmati Rice

4983. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rice exporters have secured export quota for non-basmati rice at high price of \$270 per tonne as against a prevailing price of around \$230 in international market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken up this issue and called the representatives of the All India Rice Exporters' Association and APEDA to find out the facts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (d). The rice exporters have secured export quotas for non-basmati rice at prices ranging between US\$ 625.33 to US \$ 245 per MT. The average comes to US \$ 258.71 per MT. There is no fixed international price of rice and like other commodities the price of rice is subject to wide fluctuations depending on the variety, quality, milling, percentage of brokers, packing and other factors as well as international demand and supply situation.

The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority had allotted the quotas under a transparent policy. In view of this, the question of calling the representatives of All-India Rice Exporters Association and Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority by the government to find out the facts, does not arise.

Life Insurance Cover to Small and Marginal Farmers

4984. SHRI M.G. REDDY: SHRI RAMA KRISHNA KONATHALA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide life insurance cover to all the small and marginal farmers in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b). There is no proposal at present to provide life insurance cover exclusively to small and marginal farmers in the country.

India's Share in World Export of Cashew Kernels

4985. **SHRI S. B. SIDNAL:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the percentage share of India in the world exports of Cashew Kernels?

• **THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED):** Export from India of cashew kernels accounts for about 57% of the world export.

[*Translation*]

Collection of Octroi by Dehradun Cantonment Board

4986. **SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI:** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Dehradun Cantonment Board is realising Octroi from the people of the area despite its abolition by Uttar Pradesh Government; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the action being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Assistance of International Finance Corporation

4987. **SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY:**

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Finance Corporation has offered to help Indian companies to raise resources from the World Capital Market;

(b) if so, whether it has also proposed to increase its shares in investments in equity in new projects;

(c) whether it has also offered to help the Government of India in operating foreign investment in India;

(d) if so, whether the IFC has agreed to offer its services to the Government through foreign investments advice services; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government to the various suggestions made by the IFC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) The International Finance Corporation had discussions with some Indian private sector companies about the possibility of assisting these companies in raising funds from the international capital market.

(b) As per its policy, IFC is always looking for opportunities to make equity investment.

(c) to (e). Preliminary discussions have been held on the possibility of utilising IFC facilities to encourage direct foreign investments.

Production and Export of Granite

4988. **SHRI RAMA KRISHNA KONATHALA:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state: