

the quantity exported from each cotton growing State;

(b) whether cotton is being imported;

(c) if so, the quantity and value of cotton imported during the year 1984-85, from which country and of which quality;

(d) the reasons for this import; and

(e) the steps taken to produce such quality of cotton which is being imported so that the import can be stopped to save foreign exchange ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) The quantity and value of raw cotton exported during the year 1984-85 statewise upto June, 1985 are as follows :-

State	Quantity (Lakh Bales)	Value (Crores of Rs.)
Maharashtra	0.63	18.81
Gujarat	0.21	4.91
A.P.	0.15	
Tamil Nadu	0.01	
Karnataka	0.19	17.7
Gujarat	0.03	
Madhya Pradesh	0.03	
Assam	0.039	1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.29</b>	<b>42.42</b>

(b) to (d) According to the latest assessment made by the Cotton Advisory Board, there is likely to be a shortage of short/medium staple cotton during the current cotton year i.e. 1984-85. It has, therefore, been decided by Government to import one lakh bales of medium staple cotton through the Cotton Corporation of India. The country/countries from where cotton will be imported will depend upon the availability of Cotton suitable to our requirement, prices etc.

(c) Government are seized of the matter. It has been stipulated in the new textile policy announced by Government on the 6th June, 85 that the present varietal imbalance of cotton shall be corrected by a mix of policies aimed at encouraging increased use of long and extra-long varieties of cotton on the one hand and higher production of short and medium staple varieties on the other.

#### Markets identified for export of Indian goods

651. SHRI M. SUBBA REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering measures to boost exports to earn the much needed foreign exchange;

(b) whether Government have already identified the markets for various indigenous products like electronics, computer, software, footwears, Indian spices etc., or whether a study has been undertaken to create market for Indian goods abroad; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government for increasing exports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir, Market surveys and studies are undertaken from time to time for new products and new markets.

(c) Import and Export Policy measures are being continuously evolved for increasing India's exports. These include measures for increasing and diversifying the production, making our exports more competitive, finding new markets for our products and processing commodities for higher value realisation. Different instruments of policy available to Government are being utilised for this purpose and adjusted as and when necessary.

**Exemption of D.A. paid to Government employees from Income-Tax Question**

652. SHRI K. KUNJAMBU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Fourth Pay Commission is considering the question of exempting dearness allowance paid to the Government employees from income tax;

(a) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to exempt the dearness allowance from income tax ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) The Fourth Pay Commission have received memoranda from some of the Unions/Associations of employees suggesting that pay and allowances (including dearness allowance) of Central Government employees should be exempted from Income-tax. The Commission will give due consideration to this demand of the employees along with other matters covered by the Commission's terms of reference.

(c) There is no such proposal at present.

**Submission of report by Fourth Pay Commission**

653. SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the latest position in regard to the submission of Report by the Fourth Pay Commission to the Government of India; and

(b) the time by which it is likely to be submitted and implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) According to its terms of reference, the Fourth Pay Commission was required to make its recommendations as soon as practicable but could also consider, if necessary, sending reports on any of the matters as and when the recommendations were finalised. At present, the Commission is actively engaged in examination and review of the pay and allowances and related matters for Central Government employees. Simultaneously the Commission is engaged in recording oral evidence of Staff Unions—so far 305 Unions/Associations have appeared before the Commission. This is likely to be over soon, after which the Commission will have discussions with some important persons and official witnesses.

It is, however, not possible at this stage to indicate the time by which the Report of the Commission would be submitted and/or implemented by the Government.

**Export of rice to Abu Dhabi by S.T.C.**

654. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Trading Corporation have entered into agreements for supply of 10,000 MT rice to Abu Dhabi without approval of its Board;

(b) whether similar situation has been created in case of Tuna Project which has been shelved; and

(c) the corrective steps taken or proposed to be taken ?