

administrative measures are also taken to improve revenue collections.

SHRI R. DHANUSKODI
ATHITHAN:

Foreign exchange earning from Sea food Exports

3762. PROF. UMMAREDDY. VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in foreign exchange earnings through sea foods export;

(b) if so, the details of exports made and foreign exchange earned during each of the last three years;

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up a sea-food processing plant in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The export of marine products during last three years were:

	<i>Qty. (in Mts)</i>	<i>Value (Rs. crores)</i>
1988-89	99777	597.85
1989-90	110843	634.99
1990-91	139419	893.37

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. There is a proposal for establishment of fish processing unit and shrimp feed mill at Vizag under Indo-Australian Aid.

Gold Bank

3763. SHRI PRAFUL PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a gold bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits likely to be accrued therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c). The matter is under detailed examination by the Reserve Bank of India.

Development of Minor Ports

3764. SHRI N. DENNIS:
SHRI G.M.C. BALAYOGI:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of minor ports in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government have been extending financial assistance for their expansions and development;

(c) if so, the assistance rendered to minor ports during Seventh Plan, port-wise and State-wise;

(d) whether the Government propose to take foreign assistance for development of these ports;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to convert those minor ports into major ports

which already achieved the export targets for conversion into major ports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) There are about 139 working minor/intermediate ports in the country. The state-wise distribution of these ports is as follows:

(1)	Gujarat	39
(2)	Maharashtra	48
(3)	Karnataka	21
(4)	Kerala	13
(5)	Tamil Nadu	8
(6)	Pondicherry	1
(7)	Andhra Pradesh	7
(8)	Orissa	2
		139

(b) and (c). In the 7th Five-Year Plan, the Central Government had kept a provision of Rs. 20.00 crores for financial assistance for the development of minor ports. However, there was no release of funds to the maritime States for this purpose.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) There is no proposal at present for Central Government to convert any minor port into a major port.

[*Translation*]

Exports from tribal and hilly areas

3765. SHRI SIMON MARANDI: Will

the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there are exportable items in abundance in tribal and hilly areas particularly in Jaharkhand region;

(b) if so, the details there of such items; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to boost export of these items?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHED): (a) to (c). A large number of items are classified as Minor Forest Produce. These items relate mainly to tree/plants and other produce. Apart from tree/plants items this classification also includes animal/bird and items base on them. However, the contribution of these items in terms in terms of foreign exchange earnings is not very significant. Minor Forest Produce items are allowed fore exports on merits.

[*English*]

Incentives to Exporters

3766. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYA SADUL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that as a result of hike in tariff in the Indian Railways in the Budget proposals for year 1992-93, there will be shortfalls in the export of a number of items due to increase in their costs;

(b) if so, whether in a bid to encourage exports to earn much needed foreign exchanges, the Government propose to give some incentives to exporters to compensate hiked tariff;