

Export of Groundnut

591. SHRI S. PALAKONDRAYUDU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the groundnut export for the past three years and upto June 30, 1989;

(b) the foreign exchange earned therefrom;

(c) whether the groundnut exporters association have felt that the cash compensatory support for HPS groundnut announced by Government is insufficient; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). The quantum and value of export of HPS groundnut since 1986-87 are given below:—

Year	Quantity (Tonnes)	Value (Rs. Crores)
1986-87	32,151	29.79
1987-88	4,822	5.12
1988-89	36,985	34.75
April 1989- June, 1989	9,712	9.27

(Source: Indian Oil & Produce Exporters Association Bombay)

(c) and (d). The Indian Oil & Produce Exporters Association, Bombay while submitting cost data in March 1989 for review of Cash Compensatory Support (CCS) applicable from April 1989, had requested for increase in CCS rate on export of HPS groundnut. However based on the cost data submitted by the Association, an increase in the rate of CCS was not considered justified.

Model Bill on Regulation of Ground Water

592. SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned 'Model Bill on Ground Water Circu-

lated' appearing in Indian Express dated 2 May, 1989; and

(b) if so, the salient features of the Bill?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) The salient features of the Bill are:

(1) Creation of a Ground Water Authority to administer the legislation.

(2) Empowering the State Government to regulate, in public interest, the extraction or use of ground water in any form, in any area so notified, based on a report from the

Ground Water Authority of the State.

(3) Registration of the existing users in the notified area.

(4) Regulation of drilling activity in the notified area.

Late Running of Kerala Express

593. SHRI SURESH KURUP:
SHRI T. BASHEER:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to his notice that there is unusual delay in the running of the Kerala Express from Trivandrum to New Delhi and New Delhi to Trivandrum; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to ensure its punctuality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). Punctuality of Kerala Express has not been satisfactory on account of recent upsets in the running of North-South trains due to unforeseen circumstances such as accidents, alarm chain pulling, miscreant activities and certain equipment failures. More time is now proposed to be provided at New Delhi to offset such time losses.

Rajdhani Express Between Delhi and Bangalore

594. SHRI H.C. RAMULU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce Rajdhani Express from Delhi to Bangalore and vice-versa; and

(b) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Not operationally feasible.

Trade With China

595. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government recently taken steps to expand trade ties with China; and

(b) if so, the various fields in which Indo-china trade has been expanded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) During the visit of our Prime Minister to China in December, 1988, it was inter-alia decided to set up Mixed Economic committee headed at Ministerial level on both sides. A sub-committee on Trade and Economic Cooperation has also been set up. India is participating in the Beijing International Fair being held this month.

(b) According to the provisional data supplied by DGCI&S, Calcutta, our exports to China during 1988-89 were of the order of Rs. 64.47 crores as compared to Rs. 33.73 crores during 1987-88. Our imports during 1988-89 were of the order of Rs. 132.46 crores as compared to Rs. 159.31 crores during 1987-88. Exports of drugs, pharmaceuticals & Fine chemicals, chrome ores, dyes, intermediates, crude drugs were main items which recorded an increase in our exports.

Excise Duty Evasion by Cigarette Companies

597. DR. B.L. SHAILESH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cigarette industry has