

Customs wherever possible, Efforts are continuously made in consultation with the Ministry of Surface Transport and major Port Authorities to streamline the costs and standards of services being rendered to the shippers at the ports. In order to provide boost to the containerisation in India, the Multimodal Transportation of Goods Ordinance, 1992 has been issued on 16th October, 1992. It would provide the basis for the operations of multimodal transport operations and for the combined transport documents in accordance with international practices.

Vanaspati Plant in Orissa

3883. SHRI SUBASH CHANDRA NAYAK:
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to set up some Vanaspati Plant in Orissa are pending since long;

(b) if so, the number of such plants proposed to be set up;

(c) the places where the plants are proposed to be located;

(d) whether all those plants are proposed to be set up in the public sector; and

(e) if not, the number out of them proposed to be set up in the private sector?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (e). Sir, the Vanaspati Industry has been delicensed as per Notification issued on 25.7.1991. The parties interested in set-

ting up vanaspati plants have merely to file a Memoranda to the Department of Industrial Development within the framework of the Guidelines issued by that Department.

Boosting Export from Goa

3884. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated a short term and long term plan of action for boosting up the export;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the incentives provided/proposed under the plan to boost up the export of bauxite ore, iron and manganese ore and other commodities exported from Goa;

(d) whether the Government have received any representation from Goa Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mineral Export Association and Small Scale Industries and Other Association in Goa in the recent past in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken in the matter?

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

(b) A Statement is attached.

(c) Apart from the benefit under Section 80 HHC of the Income Tax Act extended to exports of processed minerals in 1991-92, exporters of minerals & ores are eligible for benefit of convertibility under the Liberalised Exchange Rate Management Scheme.

(d) and (e). Government have received

a representation from Goa Mineral Ore Exporters' Association for abolition of export duty on iron ore and for relaxation of the cancellation policy in respect of iron ore so as to enable Goan Exporters to export iron ore of Goan origin directly to the Middle East. While appropriate recommendations have been made to the concerned authorities regarding export duty on iron ore, the request for direct export of Goan iron ore to Middle East by Private shippers of Goa was considered and could not be acceded to.

STATEMENT

The Ministry of Commerce has prepared a shortterm Action Plan for ensuring the revival of the export momentum.

The Action Plan comprises general policies which are directed towards creating more conducive export environment. These include full convertibility of rupee, better terms for export credit, more efficient duty drawback system and wider coverage of income tax benefit. The Action Plan also consists of sector-specific issues which include reduction in import duty on raw materials, certain changes in the direct tax provisions and adequate and timely availability of IPRS.

The Ministry of Commerce has also formulated an action programme in the medium term in respect of 34 commodities identified as "Extreme Focus Commodities". A synthesis report on these items has been prepared based on the recommendations made by representatives of trade and industry. The recommendations, both general and commodity specific, relate to general macro economic policy, procedural simplifications, infrastructural improvements and institutional arrangements. Immediate action has been taken by the Ministry to implement the major recommendations which relate to Export-Import Policy and other matters which are

directly under the purview of the Ministry.

U.N. General Assembly

3885. SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any demand to make the U.N. General Assembly more effective; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Proposals for the restructuring and revitalisation of the U.N. including the strengthening of the U.N. General Assembly to make it more effective are under consideration in the U.N. India, alongwith other developing and non-aligned countries, have called for an enhancement of the role of the U.N. General Assembly as a forum for deliberation, negotiation and decision-making on all issues of global concern. They have also called for an improvement of the organisation and methods of work of the U.N. General Assembly so as to make them more responsive to the requirements of the times and have called for a balanced relationship between the U.N. General Assembly, Security Council and other Organs of the U.N., in accordance with the provisions of the U.N. charter.

[*Translation*]

Assistance to Voluntary Organisations

3886. SHRI ACHARYA VISHWANATH DAS SHASTRI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the manner in which the Government encourages voluntary institutions and organisations for afforestation on the river