

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

banks, dams, road sides, railway tracks and unused Government land and such land in rural areas under village panchayats;

(b) the sources through which and the extent upto which the Government give aid to the above institutions for the above said work; and

(c) the total provision made by the Government for the above work during the Eighth Five Year Plan and the details of the amount spent during the Seventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WASTELANDS DEVELOPMENT) (COL. RAM SINGH): (a) and (b). Government encourages voluntary agencies and non-governmental organisations for undertaking afforestation and activities related to development of wastelands on private as well as public lands which may include areas along riverbanks road sides/railway tracks and community lands as well through its Central Sector 'Grant-in-Aid' Scheme. The quantum of financial assistance depends on the capability of the organisation.

(c) During the Seventh Five Year Plan (1985-86 to 1989-90) an amount of Rs. 16.30 crores had been released under the 'Grant-in-Aid' Scheme. The provision for the Eighth Five Year Plan is yet to be finalised. However, for 1992-93 a provision of Rs. 2.5 crores has been made.

[English]

Cryogenic Rocket Engine

397. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO:
SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM:
SHRI D. VENKATESWARA
RAO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any uncertainty in supply of cryogenic rocket engine by Russia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to approach any other country for the supply of the engine;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to fabricate cryogenic rocket engine and to manufacture its fuel indigenously; and

(f) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard and the time by which this technology is likely to be developed indigenously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPEMENT) (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) and (f). The technology transfer agreement with Russia is a process of acceleration of cryogenic technology and is to reduce the developmental risks. The agreement in addition to supply of two flight units from Russia envisages realisation of cryogenic stage in India from the third unit onwards. The cryogenic fuel will be produced in a Plant being set up by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) at Mahendragiri. The cryogenic stage is expected to be realised in India by 1996.