

Business delegations and participation by Austria in Indian Trade Fairs. The next meeting of the Indo-Austrian Mixed Commission to be held shortly would also consider proposals for expansion of trade between the two countries in the context of economic liberalisations effected in India.

### Export of Diamond

5475. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the foreign exchange earned through export of diamond during 1993;

(b) whether there is a vast scope for increasing the export of diamond;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the target fixed for the remaining period of the Eighth Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The export of cut & polished diamonds & foreign exchange earned therefrom during 1993 is Rs. 10904.37 crores approximately.

(b) and (c). As India processes about 70% of rough diamonds in terms of quantity (Caratage) & has a 40% share of the world market in cut and polished diamonds there is not much scope for substantially increasing the export of diamonds. However, the Government continues to provide the Diamond exporters access to raw materials through Diamond Imprest &

DTC licences as also through replenishment licences. The export of jewellery studded with diamonds is also encouraged.

(d) Export targets are fixed every year taking into account the conditions prevailing in the world markets. The target for the year 1994-95 is Rs. 12600 crores.

### Hospital for Beedi Workers of Mysore

5476. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS :  
SHRI A. VENKATESH  
NAIK:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Beedi workers in Mysore district of Karnataka;

(b) whether the Government have constructed a hospital for Beedi workers at Mysore;

(c) if so, the facilities available in that hospital;

(d) whether the Government propose to construct similar hospitals at other places in Karnataka;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the other special medical facilities proposed to be provided to them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) It is estimated that there are 49,135 Beedi Workers in the Mysore District of Karnataka.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The hospital provides outdoor and indoor treatment to the beedi workers. X-Ray and Lab. facilities are also available in the hospital. A mobile unit attached to the hospital is covering 6 satellite centres in and around Mysore for providing medical facilities to Beedi Workers and their dependents. The hospital also provides medical facilities to workers of other Taluks in and around Mysore.

(d) to (f). Not at present.

### **Export Promotion Boards**

5477. SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAO-SAHEB TOPE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to permit private sector participation in the management of Export Promotion Boards;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). Private Sector is already represented on the Boards of various Export Promotion Boards viz; Spices Board, Tobacco Board, Tea Board, Coffee Board, Rubber Board, Agriculture & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority and Marine Products Export Development Authority.

### **Coffee Collection Centres**

5478. SHRI RAMESH CHENNI-THALA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coffee Board has closed down a number of Coffee Collection Centres;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The state-wise details are as under:-

Kerala	9
Other states	Nil

(c) During the introduction of Internal Sale Quota, Travancore area in Kerala alongwith few other non-traditional areas were exempted from compulsory pooling. This had rendered the collection centres in these places unviable due to low pooling. However, those growers who wished to pool with the Board could do so with the nearest Curing Works.

[Translation]

### **Housing Schemes by LIC/CIC**

5479. SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the housing schemes started by the Life Insurance Corpn. of India/General Insurance Corpn. in the Country, state-wise;

(b) wheher the Union Government have recently taken a decision to make available loans from the Life Insurance Corporation and the General Insurance