

(b) the sectors which have been mainly projected in these exhibitions,

(c) whether Animal Husbandry, Floriculture, Fisheries and Dairying were projected as export boosting items, and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM) (a) As reported by Indian Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO), business amounting to Rs 550 crore has been booked in Agri Expo, 95 and Ahara, 1995. Most of the participants are reported to have expressed their satisfaction towards achievements of their objectives of participation quality and cost-effectiveness of fairs and trade results and confirmed their willingness for repeat participation.

(b) While Agri-Expo highlighted the agriculture and allied sector Ahara highlighted the food processing sector.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The items of display from the Animal Husbandry and Dairying sector were Livestock population & Resources, Fodder Resources, Livestock health, Dairy development, Meat & Meat products, Livestock development strategies and programmes.

The Horticulture Division of the Ministry of Agriculture projected varieties of different flowers and crops.

In fisheries sector, besides other items special emphasis was laid on shrimp aquaculture and Marine Fish Stock assessment with innovative harvest and post harvest technologies including Pearl production for export purposes.

[Translation]

#### Bonds by States

6548 SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA Will the MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have received requests from the State Governments in regard to permit them to issue Bonds for their developments work

(b) if so, the details thereof

(c) the policy being adopted by the Government in this regard

(d) the State Governments to whom the permission has been given and denied, separately and

(e) the reasons for not giving the permission in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M V CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

#### Non-Functioning of Airports

6549 SHRI KADAMBUR M R JANARTHANAN  
SHRI RAMDEW RAM

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state

(a) the number of new airports yet to commence functioning,

(b) whether the Government are aware that the new airport of Tuticorin inaugurated in 1992 has stopped functioning and

(c) if so the reasons therefor and the steps the Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) (a) All new airports are functional.

(b) and (c) Tuticorin airport is operational. While charter and non-schedule flights are operating occasionally none of the scheduled operators has shown willingness to operate from this airport.

#### Income Tax Exemption to Agricultural Cooperatives

6550 SHRIMATI DIPIKA H TOPIWALA Will the Minister to FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have received any request for exemption of agricultural cooperatives from income-tax,

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the action/decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M V CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Request has been made for granting tax exemption to all apex agricultural marketing cooperatives which are not selling goods of their members.

(c) The request cannot be accepted. It may be appreciated that section 80P (2) (a) (v) allows 100 per cent deduction in respect of cooperative societies engaged in processing agricultural produce of its members. Likewise, section 80P (2) (a) (iii) allows 100 per cent exemption to cooperative societies in respect of marketing of agricultural produce of its members. Thus, the thrust of the policy regarding incentives to

cooperative societies has been to encourage activities involving transactions with members. A very limited exemption of Rs 20 000 is allowed in respect of transactions of cooperative societies with non members

#### Excise Duty on Spinning

6551 DR LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Wool and Woollens Export Promotion Council (WWEPC) has made any representation to the Government for review of the excise duty and countervailing structure, and

(b) if so, action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M V CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY)

(a) Yes Sir

(b) The request have been examined and it has not been found possible to accept the same

#### Fiscal System

6552 SHRI V SREENIVASA PRASAD Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Indian fiscal system needs overhauling appearing in Statesman dated April 22, 1995,

(b) whether an international financial institution has described India's fiscal reforms and pace of liberalisation a temporary phenomenon

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to contemplate any serious efforts to strengthen its fiscal system, and

(d) if so, the details thereof

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M V CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) (a) to (d) As per the news item captioned "Indian Fiscal System needs overhauling published in the Statesman dated 22nd April, 1995, the Institute of International Finance, Washington, 'has noted a sense of complacency in fiscal reforms and pace of liberalisation in India in early 1994", and has hoped that it will just a temporary phenomenon

There has never been a sense of complacency and Government has continued with the process of liberalisation and reforms since their introduction in 1991-92. Fiscal deficit which was 8.3 per cent of GDP in 1990-91 was reduced to 6.7 per cent of GDP in 1994-95 (RE). Fiscal deficit would have been still lower but for sudden increase in the collection of small savings and consequent increase in the loaning to States. Fiscal deficit is estimated to decline still further to 5.5 per cent in 1995-96

[Translation]

#### Expenditures on Central Government Employees

6553 DR CHINTA MOHAN

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the total number of employees working in the Government of India at present

(b) whether the annual amount being spent on the Central Government employees is increasing continuously during the last three years,

(c) if so, the year-wise amount spent on Central Government employees during 1992-93 and 1993-94 and 1994-95

(d) the percentage of this amount constitutes of the annual GDP,

(e) whether any target has been fixed by the Union Government to reduce this percentage in the coming years, and

(f) if so, the targets fixed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M V CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY)

(a) The estimated strength of Central Government (Civilian) employees as on 1st March, 1995 was about 39.45 lakhs

(b) Due to increase in Dearness Allowance annual increments and upgradation of cities for the purpose of HRA, CCA etc the annual amount being spent on the Central Government employees has been increasing during the last three years

(c) and (d) The year wise expenditure on Pay & Allowances of Central Government (Civilian) employees during the same period and expressed as a percentage of annual GDP are as follows

Year	Expenditure (Rs Crores)	Percentage of Col (2) to GDP
1992-93	12976	1.846
1993-94	14570	1.853
1994-95 (Estimated)	15532	GDP yet to be worked out

(e) and (f) While no targets have been fixed to reduce the percentage of annual expenditure on pay and allowances to the GDP efforts are continuing to reduce the number of posts in the Central Governments