

(c) Steps taken to enhance the export of agro-products are the simplification of inspection procedures, removal of Minimum Export Price and Quantity restrictions of selected items, provision of concessional export credit, product development to meet international needs, extension of benefits available under the scheme of Export Oriented Units (EOUs)/Export Processing Zones (EPZs) to the agriculture and allied sectors and permitting 50% sale in the domestic tariff area, assistance to exporters for improved packaging, strengthening of quality control, promoting export of identified products through brand promotion campaigns, arranging buyer-seller meets and participation in international fairs/exhibitions.

Besides the above general measures, some of the steps taken to enhance exports of cashewnuts include permitting import of raw cashewnuts without import duty for exports and dissemination of trade information through monthly and quarterly publications.

#### Value of Rupee

7302. SHRI M.G. REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a sharp decline in the actual value of rupee during the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial measures have been taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(a) The value of rupee (measured as a reciprocal to the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers, CPI-IW, with base 1982=100) dropped to 35.21 paise in 1994-95 from 38.76 paise in 1993-94 and 41.67 paise in 1992-93.

(b) and (c). The value of Rupee which represents its purchasing power depends on the movement of the general price level. The Government therefore remains vigilant about the need to arrest the rise in prices. A number of steps have been taken to ensure that inflationary pressures are contained. Some of the steps taken since 1994-95 are :

- (i) Release of foodgrains from public stocks through open market sale by Food Corporation of India.
- (ii) Placing import of sugar on OGL at zero duty.
- (iii) Ensuring sugar availability for PDS by importing at zero duty.
- (iv) Importing palmolein oil for supply to Consumers through PDS.
- (v) With effect from March, 1995 allowing import of major edible oils under OGL at reduced duty of 30 per cent.

(vi) Allowing cotton import under OGL at zero duty.

(vii) Placing a cap on Central Government's borrowings from the RBI through the issue of ad-hoc Treasury Bills and containing monetary growth through a series of measures including raising of CRR and sale of Government securities by the RBI.

(viii) Reducing excise and customs duties in 1995-96 budget in a manner designed to reduce inflation.

#### Export of Sport Items

7303 SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the countries which are competitors to India in the international sports goods market and the share of India in the said market in terms of percentage at present and the manner in which this share is proposed to be increased in the coming years;

(b) whether Government propose to issue instructions to the Sports Goods Export Promotion Council to include the names of non-member new export firms in its mailing list on a nominal charge in order to encourage such firms for making a dent in the international market;

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether modernisation of sports goods industry's manufacturing facilities can prove helpful in boosting exports;

(e) whether the SGEPC or any other agency has identified equipments for this purpose and the sources from where these can be imported; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) India has a miniscule share of around 0.1% in the international sport's goods market which is dominated by Hongkong, USA, China, Japan, Germany, Korea etc. The major competitors of India in the sports goods being exported by us are Pakistan, Taiwan, Korea, China, Thailand, Singapore etc. India's share in the international sports goods market is proposed to be increased by export promotion measures like participation in major international fairs, sponsoring trade delegations, motivating Indian manufacturers to upgrade their technology and enter into joint ventures ; diversifying their product ranges etc.

(b) and (c). No, Sir. There is no proposal to include the names of non-member new export firms in Sports Goods Export Promotion Councils mailing list at nominal charge as the Council would like new export firms to become its members before such facilities are extended to them.