

*[English]***Export of Cycles**

622. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cycles exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last two years, country-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of cycles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) The number of cycles exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last two years are given below:-

(Quantity in Numbers)

(Value: Foreign Exchange equivalent in Rupees crores)

Year	Quantity	Value
1995-96	10,08,979	140.99
1996-97	N.A.	128.59 (Provisional)

The major countries to which cycles have been exported from India are:

(Value in Rs. crores)

Country	1995-96	1996-97
Bangladesh	1.86	1.92
Denmark	4.95	3.17
France	15.02	1.56
Germany	17.18	11.93
Kenya	8.57	3.29
Malawi	4.21	7.42
Mali	1.73	6.49
Maynmar	1.77	0.88
Mozambique	5.32	7.87
Nigeria	5.83	2.07
Peru	1.43	1.22
South Africa	1.46	1.87
Sri Lanka	3.31	1.15
Tanzania Rep.	3.67	2.39
UK	32.13	22.11
USA	5.49	25.25
Zaire Rep.	3.04	1.74
Zambia	1.25	1.38

(b) Apart from the facilities/concessions indicated in the Export-Import Policy, through Engineering Export Promotion Council, an organisation sponsored by Ministry of Commerce, measures such as sponsoring visits of delegations' abroad to study modernisation and technical upgradation, conducting buyer-sellers' meet etc. are being carried out in respect of export of bicycles.

Cable Industry

623. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that cable industry is facing serious recessions and the industry is dying;

(b) if so, whether the Government have made any survey in this regard;

(c) if so, the reasons for such recession and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) The Government have not received any representations from cable manufacturers in this regard.

*[Translation]***LIC Agents**

624. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of L.I.C. agents during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(b) the amount given as commission to these agents during above period, year-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase the amount of commission for these L.I.C. agents and also provide them more facilities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) The number of LIC agents is as follows:

(1) Year ended 31.3.1996:	5,37,117
(2) Year ended 31.3.1997:	5,69,675
	(Provisional)

For 1997-98 figures are not presently available.

(b) Figures of amount paid as commission to Agents of LIC are given below:

	(Rs. in Crores)
(1) Year ended 31.3.1996:	1073.00
(2) Year ended 31.3.1997:	1300.00

(c) and (d) LIC agents are paid commission as per Agents Rules. Agents are already given facilities by way of advance for conveyance, telephone, computer, office equipments, housing, festivals, etc.

[English]

Import of Tyres

625. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:

SHRI CHITTA BASU:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision to import new rubber tyres and retreaded tyres;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether the Indian Tyre Manufacturers Association have submitted a memorandum stating that the decision of the Government to freely import new as well as retreaded tyres of cars, tractors and other vehicles should be reviewed; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Under the current Export & Import Policy, import of new and retreaded tyres is permitted freely.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Representation has been received from Automobile Tyres Manufacturers' Association and a decision on the representation shall be taken in consultation with the concerned administrative Ministries/Departments.

Fixed Deposits by Companies

626. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to permit some selected companies to raise fix deposits;

(b) if so, the criteria worked out for selecting the companies;

(c) the names of the companies granted permission in this regard so far;

(d) the steps taken to safeguard the interest of investors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) The companies raising deposits have to adhere to the provisions of Section 58A of the Companies Act and the Companies (Acceptance of Deposits) Rules, 1975 or the provisions of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 and RBI Directions, as the case may be.

Sub-section 58A(9) and 58A(10) of the Companies Act, 1956 provide a mechanism for redressal to the investor when a company fails to repay any deposit or part thereof in accordance with the terms and conditions of such deposit.

[Translation]

Inflation Rate

627. SHRI S.P. JAISWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether rates of all consumer goods and inflation rate are constantly increasing after announcement of general budget this year;

(b) if so, the quantum of increase in consumer price index registered every month; and

(c) the rate of inflation recorded in the same period of 1994-95 and 1995-96?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) The rise in the price of consumer goods as reflected in the movement of Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (base, 1982 = 100) indicates that annual point-to-point inflation which had registered a rise of 10.8 per cent in February, 1997 decelerated to 7.3 per cent in May, 1997.

(b) Monthly Increase in the Consumer Price Index registered between February 1997 to May 1997 is listed below:

Month	% increase in CPI over preceding month
February	0.0
March	0.3
April	0.9
May	-0.6