

[English]

Export of Roses

1891. SHRI RAMA KRISHNA KONATHALA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Araku Valley in Visakhapatnam is best suited for exotic varieties of roses for export;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been undertaken by the Government with the help of Horticulture Board;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which this proposal is likely to be examined?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e) While no such proposal has been received, nor any survey conducted by the National Horticulture Board, the potential of Araku Valley for cultivating roses for exports would be ascertained from the Andhra Pradesh Government as soon as possible.

Task Force for Jute Industry

1892. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has decided to set up an inter-governmental task force to monitor jute cultivation, marketing, exploring opportunities for its exports and finding ways and means for the optimum use of jute;

(b) if so, the composition of this task force; and

(c) the precise terms of reference of the task force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G.VENKAT SWAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

National Court of Direct Taxes and Gold Bank

1893. SHRI RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to establish a National Court of Direct Taxes and Gold Bank is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken in the matter;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V.CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (d) (i) The proposal for establishment of a National Court of Direct Taxes is under consideration. In the meanwhile a study on the various aspects of working of Tribunals has been undertaken by the Law Commission. There is also an appeal pending before the Supreme Court against a High Court judgement on the interpretation of Article 323B of the Constitution which will have a bearing on the working of the proposed Tribunal.

(ii) Government of India had referred

the issue of introduction of a Gold Bank as a National Scheme to the High Level Committee on Balance of payments, set up under the Chairmanship of Dr.C Rangarajan. The High Level Committee examined the Commercial viability of the scheme and other details and in it's Report of April 1993 recommended, *inter-alia*, caution in creating permanent institutions or corporate bodies for mobilising gold. Government has accepted the recommendation of the High Level Committee and has dropped the issue of setting up a Gold Bank for the time being.

Export of Betel Leaves

1694. SHRI SATYA GOPAL MISRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the total quantity of betel leaves exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during 1993-94, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Details of country-wise export of betel leaves during 1993-94 are given in the Statement enclosed.

STATEMENT

Country-wise export of betel leaves during 1993-94 (Provisional)

<i>Name of the country</i>	<i>Qty:in kg. Val:in Rs.</i>	
	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Value</i>
Baharain	5065	100358
Canada	22178	563467
Denmark	77	2190

Egypt ARP	600	13800
France	1432	14504
German F.Rep	4300	87716
Ivory Coast	1200	21603
Japan	124	2910
Kenya	13614	766278
Korea Rep	200	15949
Kuwait	20	280
Mongolia	5	120
Pakistan	2305391	32967086
Portugal	1426	55880
Saudi Arab	24270	814224
Singapore	26	28723
Sri Lanka	38787	2545832
Sweden	60	600
Switzerland	1899	25323
Tanzania Rep	838	33394
Tonga	238	6600
U.Arab Emts	10912	163946
UK	92391	1941940
Yemen Republic	3645	105765
Total	2528698	40278485

Source : DGCIS, Calcutta.