

Export of Marine Products

995. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of marine products exported and the foreign exchange earned there from during 1995-96, country-wise and item-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) During the period (April-January) 1995-96, India exported 216681 MT of marine products valued at Rs. 2506.64 crores, (Source-DGCI&S). The country-wise details are available in the Foreign Trade Statistics of India (annual/monthly number) published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

(b) Steps taken to enhance export of marine products, *inter-alia*, include :-

(i) Providing financial assistance for modernisation of seafood industry stepping up production of culture fisheries and establishment of shrimp hatcheries; acquiring quality control equipment, individual quick freezing machinery and generator sets; and modification of mechanised vessels.

(ii) Equity contribution to projects set up in the areas of culture and capture fisheries.

(iii) Encouraging product development to meet international needs.

(iv) Identification of new markets for export of marine products.

(v) Participation in International Trade Fairs, arranging buyer seller meets and sponsoring trade delegations.

MODVAT Scheme

996. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the modified value Added Tax (Modvat) scheme following detection of several cases of misuse of the provision which permits dealers to issue invoices for making credit claims ;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) the particulars of the false claims and amount involved therein ; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken to prevent the misuse of this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) and (b). Government is continuously studying and monitoring the working of Modvat Scheme and taking necessary steps so that the scheme is not misused.

(c) The data in this regard is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House after compilation.

(d) Stringent action is initiated against offenders of Modvat Scheme as per Law. Show Cause Notices are issued and cases are adjudicated confirming the demands. Penal action is also initiated wherever deemed fit. Lacunae, if any, which come to notice, will be removed in the light of the experience of the working of the scheme.

Excise Duty Dues Against New Tobacco Co.

997. SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of Excise Duty outstanding against the New Tobacco Company as on date ;

(b) the break-up of the period for which it is due; and

(c) the steps being taken for the recovery of the amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) Central Excise duty amounting to Rs. 59.40 crore (Confirmed demands) excluding penalty is outstanding against M/s New Tobacco Company Limited as on date.

(b) Various claims were made against the Company in various periods from 1987 to date.

(c) Necessary administrative, legal and other measures under the relevant laws/Acts are continuously taken to recover the outstanding dues.

Liberalisation of Textile and Clothing Trade

998. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether though Uruguay Round negotiations agreed to liberalise World textiles and clothings trade, yet it will do almost nothing to open markets in developed countries to Third World textile exports;