

(c) whether any steps have been taken to explore new markets for these products; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the achievements made so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b). Details of exports of cashew, coir products, spices and other agricultural products for the last three years are given in Statement.

(c) and (d). There has been enhanced exports of non-traditional items such as floriculture products, fresh fruits and vegetables, processed fruits and juices and meat preparations to new destinations in Middle East Countries, Western Europe and Japan. Steps taken to explore new markets for Indian agricultural products include brand promotion campaigns, arranging buyer-seller meets, sending sales-cum-study teams and participation in the international fairs/exhibitions.

STATEMENT

	1993-94		1994-95		1995-96	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
1. Cashew	68968	333.27	76897	396.40	97792	368.06
2. Spices	185082	181.38	154954	194.99	211515	234.96
3. Other Agricultural Products	-	1981.19	-	1802.27	-	3587.42
4. Coir & CoirMfcs	-	41.41	-	55.02	-	62.94

Sources: DGCI&S, Calcutta

Survey for Rubber Plantation in NE Region

1904. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rubber Board has conducted any survey for rubber plantation in the North-Eastern region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government for the development of rubber plantation in the region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Rubber Board had conducted an exploratory survey to assess the area available for rubber plantations in the North-Eastern Region. As per the survey, 4.5 lakh hectares are available for rubber cultivation, details of which state-wise, are given below:

(in ha.)

State	Area Available
Assam	200000
Tripura	100000
Meghalaya	50000
Other N.E. States	50000
Total	450000

(c) In order to promote rubber plantation in the North Eastern region, Government had approved in 1984 a scheme for accelerated Development of rubber plantation for North-East. The area under rubber in this region was 9,250 ha in 1984-85 which has expanded to 35,000 ha now. Rubber Board has reoriented some of its schemes to suit to the special needs of the North-East and also has introduced special schemes for re-settlement of shifting cultivators. In the year 1993-94, a World Bank assisted Rubber Project has also been taken up in this region to develop 6,000 ha of additional area for plantation under rubber and 13,050 ha for re-plantation by 1997-98.

[Translation]

Shortage of Stamp Paper

1905. SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the shortage of stamp paper of the value of rupees five and ten in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). In view of the capacity constraints, the existing two Security Printing Presses at Nasik and Hyderabad have

not been able to fully meet the sudden spurt in the demand of Non Judicial stamp papers in the country. However, steps have already been initiated to augment the existing production capacity.

[English]

Training to Vocational Students of G.I.C.

1906. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the General Insurance Corporation has since given the apprenticeship training to those vocational students who had passed XII class with GIC subjects during 1994;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the next batch of students of 1995 are likely to be called for apprenticeship training?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The students who passed out 10+2 General Insurance Vocational Course in 1994, satisfying prescribed norms, have been appointed as Apprentice Assistants. On completion of 1-year Apprenticeship Training, they will be eligible for appointment as Assistants in GIC and its subsidiaries.

(d) There is no job guarantee for the 1995 batch under the revised Scheme. However, successful candidates will be treated as meeting the educational standards laid down for recruitment as 'Assistants' and would be considered eligible for selection along with general category candidates as per the recruitment procedure, as and when recruitment takes place.

Job Workers to Enlist Voters' List

1907. KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state

(a) whether thousands of young people are employed as job workers to enlist voters' list every year and they are working in the same conditions for years together;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to absorb these workers as permanent workers so that they could settle in life; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

'Checked in Baggage' in Indira Gandhi International Airport

1908. DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'checked-in-baggage' at the Indira Gandhi International Airport is not being put through x-ray machine; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) On the arrival side, generally, checked in baggage, brought by flights originating from sensitive places, is subjected to X-ray. As regards such baggage brought by flights coming from non-sensitive areas, it is X-rayed but only on a random selection basis.

On the departure side, however, baggage items are generally subjected to X-ray by the airlines, if security considerations so require.

Settlement of Disputes Between Indian and Foreign Companies

1909. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a separate arbitration authority to ensure an early settlement of disputes between Indian and foreign companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) when a final decision is likely to be taken in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

States' Share of Equity in R.R.Bs

1910. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government have since contributed their shares of equity towards the selected Regional Rural Banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps taken to ensure such participation?