

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) As part of the measures for providing debt relief to States, the Eighth Finance Commission had recommended write-off of Rs. 405.20 crores in respect of repayments of loans to be made to the Centre by 12 States (Assam, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura and West Bengal) during 1984-89.

(b) The Commission also recommended consolidation and rescheduling or pre-1979 loans consolidated on the recommendations of the Seventh Finance Commission and outstanding as on 31.3.1984, in the case of 11 States (Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim and Uttar Pradesh). In respect of outstandings as on 31st March, 1984, of all other Central loans received by State Governments during 1979-84 (other than loans for relief and rehabilitation of displaced Persons, repatriates etc., loans given under National Loans Scholarship Schemes, loans given to clear over-drafts in 1982-83 and 1983-84, loans against small savings collections and loans to Orissa for Hirakud Stage-I), the Commission recommended consolidation and rescheduling for all the States. The repayment of the consolidated loans was to commence from 1984-85.

(c) Consequent on the decision of the Government of India to implement the recommendations of the Eighth Finance Commission for the period 1985-86 to 1988-89, write-off of repayment of loans amounting to Rs. 324.16 crores @ Rs. 81.04 crores in each year during 1985-89 has been sanctioned. Similarly, consolidation and rescheduling of Central loans mentioned in (b) above outstanding as on 31.3.1985 on the lines recommended by the Commission have been sanctioned from 1985-86.

Thakkar-Natarajan Enquiry Commission on Fairfax

486. SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Thakkar - Natarajan Enquiry Commission on Fairfax has been further extended; and

(b) if so, till what date?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI NARAYAN DUTT TIWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The term of the Commission has been extended till October 5, 1987.

Exports of Rare Earths

487. SHRI SOMNATH RATH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the projected and the actual exports of rare earths through Gopalpur Port, Orissa; and

(b) the reasons for the shortfall, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN). (a) and (b). Gopalpur, a seasonal port in Orissa, operating between October and March, was commissioned on 22nd February, 1987. Since then a quantity of 2800 Mts. of products was exported through this port. During the shipping season of 1987-88 approximately 20,000 MTs of products are expected to be exported through Gopalpur, which is likely to pick up when the Orissa Sands Complex Plant of Indian Rare Earths Ltd. starts operating at full capacity.