

Central Government will be taken note of in the Revised Estimates for 1987-88 which will be presented to Parliament along with the Budget Estimates for 1988-89. In the case of State Governments the results achieved by them as a result of austerity steps will be reflected in the Budgets of the States which will be presented to their respective Legislatures.

Demand of Employees of Regional Rural Banks

1109. SHRI VISHNU MODI :
SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether employees of regional rural banks have submitted their charter of demands to Government ;

(b) if so, the salient features of their demands ; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The employees of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) have been submitting their charter of demands / grievances to Government, NABARD and Managements of RRBs from time to time.

(b) The salient features of their demands is that they should be given parity in payscales and other benefits with the employees of commercial banks. They have also been demanding more promotional avenues.

(c) Regional Rural Banks have been conceived as low cost institutions having limited jurisdiction confined to one or more districts in a State and clientele comprising of small/marginal farmers, rural artisans etc.

Two Writ Petitions on the subject came up for hearing the Supreme Court recently. During the course of hearing the Supreme Court directed the Government to

constitute a National Industrial Tribunal to decide the question relating to pay, allowances, and other benefits payable to employees of RRBs. Efforts are under way to appoint such a Tribunal.

100 per cent Export-Oriented Gem and Jewellery Complex

1110. SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHOSALE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up first 100 per cent export oriented gem and jewellery complex ;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and the place chosen for the purpose ;

(c) the estimated cost of this complex ;

(d) the salient features of the complex; and

(e) by what time the complex will be in operation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS : MUNSI) (a) to (c) An export oriented jewellery complex under the 100 per cent export oriented scheme is being set up at Jhandewalan in Delhi, the cost on which is being incurred by the entrepreneurs themselves.

(d) 12 units for export production of gold jewellery have been approved for being set up in the complex. The complex is governed by the provisions of the 100 per cent export oriented unit scheme as detailed in Appendix 23 of the current Import & Export Policy (Vol. I) subject further to the conditions detailed in Annexure IV to Appendix 22 of the said Policy.

(e) The Jhandewalan jewellery complex is expected to become operational in the next few weeks.

Funds for High-Yielding Varieties of Cardamom

1111. SHRI K. MOHANDAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Rs. 120.50 lakhs have been earmarked during the Seventh Five Year Plan for production and supply of high-yielding varieties of cardamom ; and

(b) if so, the amount spent so far and the work done under this scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) : (a) The allocation for Nurseries for production and supply of high yielding varieties of cardamom during the Seventh Five Year Plan is Rs. 224.00 lakhs.

(b) The amount spent as on 13-9-87 is Rs. 102.22 lakhs. During 85-86 and 86-87 a total number of 53,58,010 and 44,17,599 seedlings were produced in the Nurseries.

Shoe Uppers Export Agreement with GDR

1112. SHRIMATI D.R. BHANDARI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some contract for supply of shoe uppers to the German Democratic Republic has been signed ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the names of places and industries dealing in manufacture of such shoe uppers ; and

(d) the other steps Government propose to take to encourage Small Scale Industrial (S.S.I.) Units dealing in manufacture of leather items ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) STC has signed two contracts with Interpelz, GDR for supply of 95,500 pairs of shoe uppers valued at Rs. 109.40 lakhs for delivery during October-December, 1987 and 8.43 lakhs pairs of shoe uppers valued at Rs. 1018.73 lakhs for delivery during the first half of 1988.

(c) The above quantities of shoes uppers will be supplied by 16 registered associates of the STC in the small scale sector located at Agra, Kanpur and Delhi;

(d) An easy access to imported inputs, training facilities for workers engaged in the leather goods industry, marketing assistance under MDA are some of the steps taken by the Govt. engaged in export production of leather goods.

Withdrawal of Excise Duty on SSI Goods

1113. SHRI SWAMI PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the excise duty concessions on goods manufactured by Small Scale Industrial (S.S.I.) units have been withdrawn ;

(b) if so, the details of Excise duty concessions withdrawn item-wise ;

(c) whether the withdrawal of these concessions will effect the functioning of S.S.I. units in any ;

(d) if so, the details thereof ;

(e) whether withdrawal of Excise duty concession will help the consumer in any way ; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI) : (a) and (b) The general exemption scheme for small scale units manufacturing specified goods and the exemption schemes for small scale units manufacturing cosmetics and toilet preparations and refrigerating and air-conditioning appliances and machinery were not withdrawn but only modified with effect from 1-10-1987 so as to deny the benefit of concessions in the case of goods which are manufactured by a small scale unit under the brand name/trade of manufacturer or trader, not eligible for such concession.

(c) and (d) As a result of the modification, small scale units manufacturing such goods under the brand name or trade name of a manufacturer or a trader not eligible for such concessions would be required to pay excise duty at the normal rates.

(e) and (f) The above modifications