

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(a) whether the excise duty concessions on goods manufactured by Small Scale Industrial (S.S.I.) units have been withdrawn ;

(b) if so, the details of Excise duty concessions withdrawn item-wise ;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

were done in order to reduce the chances of large manufacturers or traders deriving unintended benefit by getting their goods manufactured by units in the small scale sectors.

Bicycle Export

1114. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the exports of bicycles and components during 1985-86 and 1986-87 ;

(b) the export target for 1987-88 and the achievement during April to September, 1987 ; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken to increase their exports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) The exports of bicycles and components during 1985-86 and 1986-87 were Rs. 42.50 crores and Rs. 55.00 crores respectively as estimated by Engineering Export Production Council.

(b) The target for exports of bicycles and components for 1987-88 is Rs. 90.00 crores. The commodity wise figures of exports for September, 1987 have not yet been compiled by EEPC. Export of bicycles and components for the period April to August, 1987, as reported by EEPC, amounted to Rs. 17.25 crores.

(c) Government has announced a number of measures to assist exporters which would also promote bicycle and bicycle components exports. These measures inter-alia include, liberalisation of licensing procedures, a new CCS regime to compensate for the cascading effect of domestic taxation ; access to raw materials and consumable at international competitive prices ; reduction in rates of pre and post shipment credit ; high debt equity ratio for identified export thrust industries ; introduction of a new blanket permit scheme liberalising provisions for export promotion activities.

In addition measures which have been taken specifically for the bicycle and

bicycle component industry inter-alia include :

- (i) Assistance for technological up-gradation of the industry by permitting import under OGL of a specified list of capital equipment not indigenously available.
- (ii) Removal of bicycle industry from the negative list for import of technology.
- (iii) Setting up of a task force by the Development Commissioner of Small Scale Industries to examine the aspects of technological up-gradation of small scale units producing bicycle components.
- (iv) Permission to exporters to take product liability insurance with insurance companies operating abroad.
- (v) Government is encouraging trading houses in the Public Sector such as STC and HMT to assist in the marketing of bicycle components produced by the small scale sector.

Excise Duty on Electronic Goods

1115. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have rationalised the excise duty rates in respect of certain consumer electronic items ;

(b) if so, what are these consumer electronic items ; and

(c) the details of the rationalisation made in the excise rates of these items ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI) : (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) and (c) Following table indicates the new rates of consumer electronic items on which excise duty rates have been rationalised.