

Council (JBC) arrangements entered into by the private sector with counter-parts abroad;

(b) if so, its outcome;

(c) whether some of these Councils have been quite dormant and functioning poorly; and

(d) if so, the role which Government propose to play in toning up the working of these Councils and find a solution to the vexed issue of JBC membership and control in the larger interests of promoting foreign trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) to (d). Joint Business Council is an institutional mechanism brought into existence through agreements between Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry and their counter-part organisations in countries abroad not only to build up contacts at the highest business level, but also to help in increasing the areas of cooperation in diverse fields of trade and industry. There are as many as 36 Joint Business Councils, some of which are actively working and some are not, Government has had opportunities to discuss the working of these Councils of discussions with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry. Both FICCI and ASSOCHAM have welcomed such dialogues being carried on between the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Government for better understanding of policies and programmes.

Meat Export

3781. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the value of meat exported during 1985-86 and 1986-87;

(b) the value of meat supplied to foreign countries during the period April-December, 1987;

(c) the names of the countries to whom export was made;

(d) whether it is a fact that substandard meat was supplied to Middle East countries;

(e) if so, the details thereof and whether any responsibility has been fixed; and

(f) the measures being taken to catch more market in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) Value of meat exported during 1985-86 and 1986-87 was Rs. 74.01 and Rs. 79.01 crores respectively.

(b) The value of meat exported during April-December 1987 is provisionally estimated at Rs. 64.43 crores.

(c) The main market for our meat exports are the Middle East Countries namely, Kuwait, Bahrain, UAE, Muscat, Egypt and Turkey.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Efforts are being intensified at tapping newly emerging markets of Turkey as well as African countries. Quality control measures have been strengthened to ensure Customer acceptability. Moreover, delegations from various countries are encouraged to visit India.

Exploitation of MODVAT

3782. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the last about one year there is a spurt in the floating of small companies;

(b) if so, whether the big companies have adopted some devices to exploit MODVAT to their advantage; and

(c) if so, the action taken to safeguard Government revenue?