

- (iv) High rates of railway freight and export charges.

(d) The steps being taken to reduce losses are as under:

- (i) Additional investment for development of infrastructural facilities at ports, rail movement and development of mines on scientific basis.
- (ii) Construction of Baspani/Diatry railway line so as to cut down cost of railway freight and consequent losses on export through Paradip.
- (iii) Development of Paradip Port to receive 170,000 DWT vessels so as to increase the loading rates of vessels at Paradip.

Committee of NRIs on Foreign Trade

3834. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI:
SHRI VAKKON
PURUSHOTHAMAN:
SHRI V. TULSIRAM:
SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH
PATIL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up a high level committee of non-resident Indians for promoting India's foreign trade;

(b) if so, the main functions of the Committee,

(c) by what time the Committee would submit the report; and

(d) to what extent the foreign trade will get a boost by the participation of the non-resident Indians?

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

(b) A statement is given below.

(c) and (d). The Committee will suggest on a continuous basis, suitable measures to enlist active cooperation of non-resident Indians living abroad for promotion of India's foreign trade.

STATEMENT

Terms of reference of high level Committee of Non-Resident Indians abroad for promoting India's foreign trade.

- (1) To promote exports of Indian goods and services, technology and project management services to foreign Countries.
- (2) To provide a forum for exchange and dissemination of information about export potential from India.
- (3) To suggest measures for strengthening of trade exchanges between India and foreign countries.
- (4) To suggest suitable market strategies for promotion of Indian products.
- (5) To suggest market surveys for identified exportable commodities from India to foreign countries
- (6) To have close liaison with the various export promotion organisations in the country and other chambers of commerce for developing better understanding of Indian trading environment and potential for exports.
- (7) To keep close contact with trade and economic sections of the Indian Missions abroad for collecting information about the import requirements of foreign countries in regard to different commodities for dissemination to Indian trading community.
- (8) To provide feed back to the Government for policy formulations relating to export assistance and promotion in regard to different

countries and different products or product groups.

- (9) To suggest such measures as are necessary in getting regularly market information like prices, quality, market preferences in terms of tests and demands for Indian goods.
- (10) To suggest commercial publicity programmes suited to overseas markets for Indian products.

Domestic Market for Non-Traditional Jute Products

3835. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government are finalising a three year subsidy scheme to promote domestic marketing of non-traditional jute products with the help of Manufacturers Development Council;

(b) if so, the details of the norms fixed in this regard; and

(c) when the scheme is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) to (c). Proposals for Internal Market Assistance Scheme for Development and Promotion of Diversified Jute products are under consideration of the Govt. The scheme is proposed to be implemented by the Jute Manufactures Development Council and fund would be made available to JMDC for disbursement from out of the Jute Special Development Fund.

Utilisation of Consultancy Agency Services

3836. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to utilise the services of specialised

consultancy agencies in a more effective manner so that water resources development keep pace with planned objectives;

(b) if so, whether it is proposed to create special fund for requisitioning the service of such organisations; and

(c) whether State Government have been consulted in the matter with response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (c). The Ministry of Water Resources has one Public Sector Enterprise namely, Water and Power Consultancy Service Ltd. This Organisation has been set up as the nodal agency to provide consultancy services and is equipped to undertake any type of technical services connected with water resources development. The consultancy services are provided by expertise drawn from outside as well as from within the company. The company provides consultancy services to the State Governments also. No special fund for requisitioning the services of the Organisation is proposed to be created.

IMF Fund for poorest Nations

3837. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Monetary Fund announced setting up of a special fund to help its poorest member nations to meet their financial obligations;

(b) if so, whether this new fund was proposed during the last year;

(c) whether any amount was drawn by India from this fund;

(d) the names of countries which have been provided loan from this fund; and

(e) whether India has asked the IMF to provide funds to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN