

Trade for export of pepper.

STATEMENT*Export of pepper from India from 1.4.88 to 31.10.88*

<i>Country</i>	<i>Qty. M. Tons.</i>
1	2
USSR	5163
USA	3865
GDR (WEST)	1296
ITALY	1254
FRANCE	1217
YUGOSLAVIA	1101
SAUDI ARABIA	1078
LIBYA	1023
NETHERLANDS	909
EGYPT	856
GDR (EAST)	719
CANADA	704
TUNISIA	605
UAE	644
UK	473
BULGARIA	465
OTHERS	4123
TOTAL	25495

Source: Spices Board. Figures are provisional.

Exchange Racket at Airports

3090. SHRISANATKUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Thriving exchange racket at airports" appearing in the "Times of India", New Delhi edition of 21 October, 1988;

(b) if so, the facts of the case; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to prevent such manipulations in foreign exchange with the connivance of some security staff at the international airports in the country and bring the culprits to book and plug procedural lapses/slippages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). Govt. have taken note of the news item. Some cases of violation of FERA and Customs Act have been detected at different airports. Enforcement agencies remain vigilant and take appropriate action with a view to curbing all illegal activities of violation of the provisions of FERA and Customs Act. The matter is also kept under constant review for taking appropriate measures to combat such illegal activities.

FERA Violations by M/S. Concord International

3091. SHRI C. JANGA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate of Enforcement had filed a case of FERA violations against M/S. Concord International for alleged receipt of commission from the Sumitomo Corporation of Japan in HBJ pipeline deal;

(b) whether the money was received in Mauritius for building a 5 star hotel; if so, the

steps being taken to repatriate the alleged pay-off;

(c) how the contract for the Sumitomo was obtained from Government of India and the way alleged commission in foreign exchange was siphoned off; and

(d) whether Japan had a contractual obligation to inform India for payment of commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d). Investigations into the matter are in progress.

Loan from International Development Association

3092. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of loan received from International Development Association in 1987-88; and

(b) the amount proposed to be borrowed from International Development Association in 1988-89?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). During the World Bank's fiscal year 1988, ending 30th June 1988, the International Development Association committed assistance for projects in India of U.S. \$ 717.2 million.

For the fiscal year 1989, ending June 1989, the World Bank group (IBRD and IDA) indicated a figure of likely commitment of U.S. \$ 2.7 billion. Within this overall figure, the proportion of IDA assistance has not been determined, and would depend upon the availability of IDA funds, and the status of individual project preparation and processing.

Development of Railway Technology

3093. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have created funds for upgrading technology; and

(b) if so, the total amount of fund proposed to be raised and by which time the funds will be raised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). The Technology Development Plan of Indian Railways envisages an investment of Rs. 280 crores over a period of 10 years. However, no separate fund for the purpose has been created.

Payment dues from African countries

3094. SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is to retrieve payments of over Rs. 400 crores due from several African countries;

(b) if so, the steps contemplated to realise this amount; and

(c) whether Government plan to buy crude from those countries and then to sell in the spot market to recover the payment?

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

(b) Measures contemplated to realise overdues include continuous negotiations with the concerned Governments and import of commodities.

(c) Government has no proposal to buy crude oil from any African country for sale in spot market for recovering overdue payments.