

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	Bank of Maharashtra	749	60	5971	2692	13	8.49
4.	Central Bank of India	1305	400	19752	8903	(-74)	2.63
5.	Dena Bank	147	130	6476	3402	52	8.27
6.	Union Bank of India	338	899	17892	8681	80	9.50

[Translation]

Misuse of Facilities by Trade and Industry

2225. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hardoi) : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Misuse of facilities is holding up pace of reforms; Ramaiah" appearing in the 'Times of India' dated August 10, 1996;

(b) if so, the details of misuse of facilities by the trade and industry sector; and

(c) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some complaints have been received alleging misuse of the Value Based Advance Licensing Scheme. These complaints relate to over-invoicing and misdeclaration of value, duty export related frauds, and bonafides of the exporters. Certain cases of violation of the gold/silver Jewellery articles export promotion and replenishment scheme have also been reported.

(c) A number of steps have been taken to prevent the misuse of the Value Based Advance Licence during the last 3 years. These include (i) fine tuning of the operation of the VBAL Scheme based on standard input-output norms only; (ii) mandatory imposition of export obligation both in quantity and value terms in VBAL; (iii) increasing the number of import items in the Sensitive List which are subject to quantity, or quantity and value restrictions under Value Based Licences; (iv) making the Scheme inapplicable to certain sectors, like silk; (v) stopping operations of specified categories of VBAL; (vi) issue of comprehensive instructions on 6.3.1995 for checking over-valuation of exports under VBAL; and (vii) to overcome the problems of non-reversal of MODVAT prior to export, Under the Scheme, exporters are required to pay Additional Customs Duty at the time of import with effect from 1.4.1995, subject to adjustment at a later stage. The procedure for verification of the availment of MODVAT in respect of inputs used for manufacture of export products has also been streamlined. The Deptt. of Revenue has also issued a Circular on 19.4.1996 under which the field formations have been directed to refer the cases of inflated licences to the DGFT.

As regards gold jewellery cases, the Govt. have constituted an Inter-Ministrial Group under the Chairmanship of Commissioner of Customs, Delhi, to take coordinated action against defaulting exporters of gold jewellery.

[English]

Collaboration with Germany

2226. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Federal Republic of Germany has recently extended its co-operation to meet changing demands of the industry in India regarding vocational training system by granting DM 15 million (Rs. 36 crore);

(b) whether the Union Government have taken any decision regarding collaboration with Germany in different fields; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) At the last annual Indo-German Negotiations on Development Cooperation held in Germany from 2-5 September, 1996, both sides agreed to further increase cooperation in the field of vocational training. Out of the funds for technical commitments amounting to DM 11 million for projects relating to vocational training. Prior to this, there was commitment for DM 4 million towards preparation of instructional material for improvement in the standards of training in ITIs, in the industries and the establishments implementing apprenticeship training scheme in Central Instructional Media Institute, (CIMI), Madras.

(b) and (c). The sectoral breakup of technology and investment areas of German companies approved by the Government of India from 1.8.1991 to 31.8.1996 are: Metallurgical Industry (36.23%), Transportation (12.58%), Telecommunication (9.87%), Fuels (8.32%), Electrical Equipment (7.12%) and others (25.88%).

Foreign Investment

2227. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have liberalised the parameters covering foreign investment proposals; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). The Foreign Investment Policy as enumerated is constantly reviewed to make it more dynamic with the objective of increasing foreign direct investment into the country particularly in priority/core sectors, including infrastructure.

Recently, the foreign investment parameters have been further liberalised to facilitate better and increased flow of foreign technology and equity and provide greater attraction to prospective investors.

It will no longer be necessary for automatic approvals by RBI that the amount of foreign equity should cover the foreign exchange requirements for import of capital goods needed for the project. The import of capital goods for the project would be, however, subject to the EXIM Policy.

The existing ceiling of Rs. 1 crore by way of payment of lumpsum fee for automatic approval has been raised to US \$ 2 million.

[Translation]

Export Oriented Units in Maharashtra

2228. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the location-wise details of the export oriented units in Maharashtra and details of the export made by them;

(b) the details of the units which have achieved their targets;

(c) the units which have not achieved their export targets with the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to review the functioning of these units and ensuring that the export targets are achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Functions of Spices Trading Corporation

2229. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the main function of the Spices Trading Corporation;

(b) the main objective of the Corporation;

(c) the work done by the Corporation during the last three years;

(d) the export performance and profit of the Corporation during the above period;

(e) whether the Corporation has any proposal to diversify its activities; and

(f) if so, the details of the proposal mooted by the Spices Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). The Spices Trading Corporation Ltd. (formerly known as Cardamon Trading Corporation) was set up in 1982 under the Companies Act. The main functions and objectives of the corporations are; to carry on domestic and international trade in spices and their products; to conduct open auctions and sell spices regularly; to process and cure spices and spice products; to undertake research and development of spices/products and to promote and develop new markets for spices.

(c) and (d). The gross turn over and export turnover of the Corporation during the last three years is given below :

Year	(in Rs. lakhs)			
	Gross turnover	Export & turnover	Gross profit	Net profit
1993-94	2253.00	201.65	46.73	(-) 8.31
1994-95	2212.88	24.66	1.04	(-) 28.71
1995-96	1065.23	152.19	(-) 18.63	(-) 75.47

(Source : Spices Trading Corporation Ltd., Bangalore)

(e) and (f). Scanning of various business opportunities is an ongoing process and apart from Spices, Spices Trading Corporation Ltd. is also engaged in trading of wide range of other agricultural commodities such as onions, potatoes and dry-fruits for exports and domestic sales. The Corporation also plans to enter consumer marketing of whole spices in the domestic market. It also sells agricultural inputs viz. fertilisers, pesticides and sprayers to farmers.

High Court Benches

2230. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of High Court Benches which are defunct in the country, High Court-wise;

(b) whether there is a long pressing demand for the revival of the High Court Bench of Kerala at Trivandrum; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government for its revival and functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) There are no defunct High Court Benches in the country.

(b) and (c). Representations have been received for establishing a bench of the Kerala High Court at Thiruvananthapuram. However, no complete proposal has been received from the Government of Kerala, in