

(b) and (c). There has been no proposal from Karnataka Government in this regard.

(d) Does not arise.

Fall in man-made Textile and leather Goods Export

1688. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has recently been a perceptible fall in the 'man-made textile' and leather goods exports;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to boost the exports in these fields?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL & MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. The comparative position of exports for the period April-September, 1979 and April-September, 1980 is as follows: (These figures are provisional).

	April to September '79	April to September, '80
	(Rs. in crores)	
1. Man-made textiles	14.37	11.21
2. All types of leather & leather goods	224.88	132.00

(b) In the case of leather and leather goods, the main reason for the fall in the exports are recessionary conditions in the international market for leather. In case of man-made textiles, it is the pull of the domestic demand on the one hand and, high cost of our production, on the other.

(c) In the short-term little can be done to overcome these handicaps. However, export incentives like those of Cash Compensatory Support and import replenishment licensing are available for the export of these products. Besides market studies and export promotion tours are being undertaken to explore new markets.

कृषि विकास बैंक की स्थापना

1689. आचार्य भगवान देव :

श्री चन्द्र भान झाठरे पाटिल :

क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या कृषि विकास बैंक की स्थापना के लिए सारी प्रारम्भिक कार्यवाही पूरी कर ली गई है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो कब तक और यह किन किन राज्यों में स्थापित किया जायेगा और इसके अन्तर्गत कौन-कौन से क्षेत्र आयेंगे ; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो प्रारम्भिक कार्य कब तक पूरे कर लिये जायेंगे और इस बैंक की स्थापना में कितना समय लगेगा ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (श्री मगनभाई बारोट) : (क) राष्ट्रीय कृषि तथा ग्रामीण विकास बैंक स्थापित करने के लिए आवश्यक कानून सक्रिय रूप से सरकार के विचाराधीन है ।

(ख) और (ग) . प्रस्तावित बैंक का अधिकार क्षेत्र देश के सभी राज्यों को व्याप्त करेगा । क्योंकि इस कानून के विभिन्न उपबन्धों पर अभी संबंधित मंत्रालयों तथा भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक के परामर्श से विचार किया जा रहा है। अतः इस समय, इस सम्बन्ध में कोई निश्चित सीमा नहीं बताई जा सकती ।

Aluminium Project in Ratnagiri (Maharashtra)

1690. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Minister of Steel had assured during the period of the 6th Lok Sabha that

there was no proposal before the Government to give up the plans for the public sector Aluminium Project in the Ratnagiri district of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether the attitude of Government towards the project has remained the same; and

(c) if so, what steps are taken to expedite the commissions of the Project in Ratnagiri district of the backward Konkan region of Maharashtra especially when there are persistent rumours that the Aluminium Project is likely to be given up?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). I had informed the House on August 8, 1980 that as there had been considerable change in the technology since the project was sanctioned in 1974 and the cost estimates had also become out of date, a decision on implementing the project could be taken after conducting a fresh techno-economic appraisal.

A review of the project which has since been conducted, shows that it is not economically viable on account of high cost of production. This is due to the following reasons:—

- (a) low scale of operation
- (b) obsolete technology
- (c) high cost of power
- (d) inadequate infra-structure resulting in high cost of material transportation.

The project may become viable if the plants are scaled up to currently economic sizes. It would, however, be necessary to establish adequate reserves of bauxite for sustaining an alumina plant of the requisite capacity. It has, therefore, been decided to conduct further explorations and reassess the bauxite reserves in the area. Depending on the final picture of the bauxite reserves, a decision on taking up fresh feasibility study for the project may be taken.

Sale of foreign ship 'Thriving Country'

1691. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT:

SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made inquiries on the sale of foreign ship "Thriving Country" worth ten crores for rupee one to Indore businessman while docked in Bombay Port;

(b) whether the Customs Authority in Bombay has made any investigations of cargo it was carrying and the fire-accident while in Bombay harbour in 1978;

(c) whether the cargo of 600 tonnes was earlier certified as "burnt-out-material" while it is now found to contain "Polyester Yarn" in good condition; which Surveyor has made the survey and its Report;

(d) how much customs duty has been charged on the said old certified cargo and on the cargo now factually proved; and

(e) whether the Government after investigation, have fixed the responsibility of this incident on any one and, if so, the action taken thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) On the basis of information concerning the sale of the vessel 'Thriving Country' which was in distress because of a fire accident on 6.11.78, the officers of the Enforcement Directorate carried out certain searches in Bombay and seized some documents.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) At the time of sale of the vessel, it had approximately 345 tonnes of cargo. A panel of customs officers deputed to examine synthetic yarn and fibre on board the vessel had reported that the weight of the burnt out material was approximately 89 tonnes.