

Dharna by fishermen3234. PROF. MADHU DANDA-
VATE:SHRI V. S. VIJAYA-
RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether fishermen have been agitating in order to press their demand for the exemption of excise duty on diesel oil even in the case of poor fishermen who use small mechanised boats for fishing operation; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A scheme already exists for granting exemption from Central Excise duty to the fishing vessels which are more than 13.7 metres in length and fitted with engine of not less than 150 HP. The scheme envisages grant of exemption of excise duty to the extent of 50 per cent of duty on high speed diesel oil and diesel oil not otherwise specified, whether any exports are made or not and the additional rebate of 50 per cent of the duty is given on each 1.08 kilolitres of diesel oil for every 1 tonne of shrimp exported. The Government, however, have not found it possible to grant complete exemption from excise duty unless the exemption is linked with marine exports.

Offers from business delegation from Netherlands

3235. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:

SHRI D. M. PUTTE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a business Delegation from the Netherlands has made offers

to India in the field of ship-building containerisation, processing of seafood and manufacture of electronic components on buy-back basis;

(b) if so, full details thereof; and

(c) other action contemplated and reaction of Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) A delegation from the City of Rotterdam led by the Acting Mayor Dr. J. Riezenkamp visited India during February, 1982. The primary objective of the delegation was to promote the shipping and Commercial interests of the port of Rotterdam and to explore the possibilities of cooperation in the field of shipping and port development. The delegation held discussions with the various trade and industrial organisations besides the Ministries of Shipping & Transport and Commerce. During discussions the delegation indicated the possibilities of their services being used for the development of ports and containerisation. The talks were of preliminary nature and no specific offers were made.

Representation from Delhi Scheduled Castes Welfare Association

3236. SHRI R. N. RAKESH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Governor of Reserve Bank of India received a representation from the Delhi Scheduled Castes Welfare Association (Regd.), Ambedkar Bhawan, New Delhi on 5 August, 1981 demanding enlargement of the scope of the Differential Rate of Interest Scheme for weaker sections of the society;

(b) if so, the details of the suggestions and whether Government have accepted them; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?