

(Rs. crores)

Year	India's total exports	India's agricultural exports	Percentage of agricultural exports to total exports
1968-69	1358	445	32.8%
1982-83	8834	2325	26.30%

“Our share in the world agricultural exports was less than 1% in 1973. It rose to 1.3% in 1975 but declined to just under 1% in recent years.

(c) An exercise has been undertaken by Government with a view to evolving a suitable package of incentives and assistance to boost export of agricultural and agro-based products. It is proposed to identify a list of selected commodities or products which will be given special attention.

Excise Duty Collection

4576. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that excise duty collections during 1983-84 are likely to fall far short of the targets contemplated in this regard ;

(b) if so, the total excise duty collections till the end of December, 1983 and the estimate of total collections during that year and how far it is likely to fall short of the target ; and

(c) the total accumulated arrears of excise collections as on March, 1983 and December, 1983 and the main reasons for such accumulation of arrears ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA) : (a) and (b) Excise duty collections during 1983-84 are not likely to fall far short of the budget estimates.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Shortfall in Customs Collection

4577. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether looking to the customs collections for the first seven months i.e. April to October, 1983, the actual collections during this financial year are likely to fall too short of the target for the second year ;

(b) if so, the estimated extent of shortfall ; and

(c) the main reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA) : (a) The actual collections of Net Customs Revenue for the financial year 1982-83 were Rs. 5045.18 crores as against the Budget Estimate of Rs. 4996.60. There was therefore no shortfall.

On the basis of the collections of Net Customs Revenue during April to October, 1983, the actual collections in 1983-84 are not likely to fall too short of the target.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

More Channelling Agencies to Promote Export of Agricultural and Products

4578. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether more channelling agencies on the pattern of State Trading Corporation are proposed to be set up to promote export of various agricultural and other food products, including marine products ;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal ; and

(c) the action taken in pursuance thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Payment of Arrears of Pension

4580 SHRI KAMAL NATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state ?

(a) whether payment of arrears of pension in the light of orders issued by the Government consequent upon Supreme Court judgement is being delayed by the authorities ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to expedite these payments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA) : (a) and (b) Orders for the revision of pension and payment of arrears consequent on the Supreme Court judgement were issued on 22.10.1983 for the Civil pensioners and on 22.11.1983 and 3.12.1983 for the Defence pensioners. All concerned have been instructed to make the payment with utmost expeditiousness. However, keeping in view the very large numbers involved, completion of the task is likely to take some more time.

Modernisation of Industrial Units in Vital Sector

4581. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a new import policy is being framed to encourage modernisation of industrial units in vital sector ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) : (a) and (b) The Import and Export Policy for 1984-84 is under formulation.

Filling Up of Vacancies of Chief Executives in National Handloom Corporation and Cardamom Board

4582. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that National Handloom Development Corporation and Cardamom Board are working without Chief Executive since a long time ;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof ; and

(c) the steps being taken to fill up the vacancies ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGAMA) : (a) The post of Chief Executive of National Handloom Corporation has not been filled up so far. However, the Chairman of the Cardamom Board is in position since November, 1980.

(b) and (c) The post of Managing Director, National Handloom Development Corporation could not be filled up due to non-availability of a suitable person to hold the post. However steps have been taken to fill up the post as early as possible.

Production and Export of Cardamom

4583. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that production of cardamom in the country has fallen considerably ;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof ; and