

**Agreements for aid from Consortium Countries**

890. SHRI M. S. SANJEEVI RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether bilateral aid agreements for the current years have been signed with some of the consortium countries; and

(b) if so, the names of the countries and main features of these agreements?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details are as follows:

	US \$ Million
1. Austria	2.40
2. Belgium .	5.00
3. Canada . . . . .	46.90
4. Denmark .	5.70
5. France . . . . .	37.00
6. Netherlands . . . . .	21.00
7. Sweden . . . . .	52.81
8. U. K. . . . .	107.00
9. USA (Export-Import Bank)	21.95
10. IDA . . . . .	191.00
<b>TOTAL . . . . .</b>	<b>490.76</b>

**Proposal to set up Joint Venture with Kuwait**

891. SHRI M. S. SANJEEVI RAO: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up joint venture with Government of Kuwait;

(b) if so, the broad outlines of the proposal; and

(c) when the proposal is likely to be finalised and implemented?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Questions do not arise.

**Boosting export of Coir Yarn**

893. SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD MANDAL: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export of coir yarn had declined during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to boost the export of coir yarn?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) There had been decline in the export of coir yarn till 1970-71 but the position has improved subsequently. As against an

export of 14,472 tonnes valued at Rs. 3.32 crores during the period April-October, 1971 the export of coir yarn during April-October, 1972 amounted to 17,392 tonnes valued at Rs. 4.43 crores.

(b) The Coir Board has taken necessary steps to boost the export of coir yarn by improving the quality maintaining the uniformity in twist and colour and by arranging publicity work.

**Complaints from Irish Importers Re-  
Indian Tea**

894. SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD MANDAL: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India have received complaints alleging presence of foreign matter in tea from the Irish Importers of Indian tea; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken on the complaints and also to boost the tea export to Ireland?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) and (b). No complaint has been received from Irish importers of Indian tea alleging presence of foreign matter in tea.

The following steps have been taken to boost tea exports to Ireland:

(i) India is the only Tea Producing Country Member in the Irish Tea Council set up by the local tea trade for promotion of tea consumption. The council runs an India Tea Centre at Dublin as also undertakes other publicity and public relations work throughout the country with a slant on Indian tea.

(ii) At the instance of the Irish Tea importers, Tea Board

co-ordinates with the shipping lines in India for arranging regular monthly direct sailing between Calcutta to Dublin during busy tea season. As a result of smooth and better availability of regular direct sailings from Calcutta to Dublin, export of tea from India to Ireland increased from 4.8 m.kgs. in 1970 to 5.6 m. kgs. in 1971.

**Bihar's request for increase in Power-  
loom quota**

895. SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD MANDAL: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Bihar have been repeatedly requesting the Centre for increase in the power looms quota for that state;

(b) if so, the extent of increase asked for by the Government of Bihar;

(c) whether the Central Government have accepted the demand; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

**Memorandum from Rubber Board  
Employees**

896. SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD MANDAL: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Employees of Rubber Board have submitted a Memorandum of demands to Government through their Chairman recently;

(b) if so, their demands; and

(c) whether Government have since taken decision thereon?