

Setting up of Export Processing Zone in Cochin

2037. SHRI S. A. MURUGANAN-THAM:
SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up an export processing zone in Cochin for electronic products and engineering goods; and

(b) if so, the broad features thereof and the steps being taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) and (b). Suggestions for setting up Free Trade Zones in a number of places including Cochin are under consideration. Individual locations will be decided on the basis of feasibility studies for each location.

Abolition of Price Subsidies

2038. SHRI P. GANGADEB:
SHRI D. D. DESAI:
SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether competition cost in International Economy now favour India; and

(b) if so, steps taken by Government to exploit this opportunity; and

(c) whether in these circumstances Government have decided to abolish all price subsidies and leave the market to find its own economy level?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) to (c). Owing to the recent increase in prices of oil products and other developments, the competitive position of a number of Indian exports like jute manufactures, cotton textiles, leather goods, oil cakes, sugar, etc. has improved. In order

to fully exploit the situation to the country's advantage, the Government has taken a number of steps which include expansion of production base of export oriented units, supply of essential raw materials apart from undertaking special programmes to increase the domestic production of commercial crops like raw jute, raw cotton, oil seeds and sugar cane. In addition export duties have been imposed on jute manufactures, export of raw materials like cotton yarn and raw hides and skins is being controlled so that exports of finished products with higher unit value could be enlarged. Grant of cash compensatory support is constantly reviewed and necessary changes, including abolition, are made according to what the circumstances warrant.

Anomalies in Export Promotion Policy

2039. SHRI P. GANGADEB:
SHRI D. D. DESAI:
SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA:
SHRI SHRIKISHAN MODI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several anomalies in the Export Promotion policy have come to the notice of Government; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken in this regard?

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

(b) Does not arise.

High Prices of Jute Manufactures

2040. SHRI S. R. DAMANI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of jute manufactures have gone up very high recently;