

Scheme to Promote Khadi

548. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have chalked out any special scheme to promote Khadi as part of the Golden Jubilee Celebration of India's Independence; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) and (b) To commemorate the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Independence the Government of India announced a special rebate on Khadi sales for the period up to 14th August, 1998. In addition, the Khadi & Village Industries Commission has taken the following measures during the period to popularise the Khadi & Village Industries programmes.

- (i) KVIC participated in the Republic Day parade held at New Delhi on 26.1.98 with its flot representing the activities being implemented by the KVIC in rural areas for strengthening the rural economy.
- (ii) An exhibition of Indian handicrafts and machinery was jointly organised by KVIC and the High Commission of India at Accra, Ghana to mark the 50th anniversary of India's Independence.

Ban by European Union on import of Marine products

549. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL :
SHRI T. GOVINDAN :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the date since when the ban has been imposed by European Union (EU) on import of marine products from India;

(b) the reasons for imposing ban;

(c) whether the Government have taken up the matter with EU;

(d) if so, the reasons of EU thereto;

(e) whether the crisis arises due to the ban on export of marine product likely to be resolved; and

(f) if so, the efforts made in this regard along with present status?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) The European Commission *vide* its decision dated 1st August, 1997 prohibited the import of Indian fish fishery products based

on the findings of deficiencies with regard to the infrastructure and hygiene in some of the fishery establishments as noticed by a team of veterinary experts of European Union (EU). In their decision of 1st August, 1997, the European Commission have also stated that there were not enough guarantees of the efficiency of the controls carried out by the Competent Authorities.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (f) The Government of India revamped the export inspection procedures and systems for the inspection and monitoring of the fishery product processing units. A two tier system of inspection of fishery product processing units with technical personnel drawn from CIFT (Central Institute for Fishery Technology), MPEDA (Marine Products Export Development Authority) and EIAs (Export Inspection Agencies) was put in place.

Consequently the European Union *vide* their decision dated 23rd December, 1997 decided to lift the import ban on the import of fish and fishery products from the fishery product processing units conforming to the standards. Director, Export Inspection Council, has till now approved a total of thirty fishery product processing units including two freezer vessels for exporting fish and fishery products to the European Union and this has been communicated to European Commission through the office of the Mission of India to European at Brussels. Out of the above approvals given by Director, EIC, the European Commission have till now notified *vide* their notification dated 7/4/98, a list of 23 fishery product processing units who are eligible to export fish and fishery products to the member countries of the European Union. The rest of the fish product processing units as have already been approved by Director, EIC, also are likely to be notified by the European Commission in due course.

New Income Tax Payers

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

(a) the number of new income-tax payers who have come into tax-net as a result of declarations under the Voluntary Disclosures of Income Scheme, 1997; and

(b) the expected annual income tax collections from them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) and (b) One of the key elements of the Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme, 1997 was its confidentiality. Under the Scheme, no person except the Commissioner of Income Tax to whom the declaration was made, was to come to know of such declaration. Therefore, the question of