

1	2	3	4	5	6
15.	Rajasthan	18	7974	4	1
16.	Tamil Nadu	52	37225	18	5
17.	Uttar Pradesh	36	77864	7	3
18.	West Bengal	12	29207	-	-
Total		357	407055	104	22

Land-Customs Posts along Meghalaya-Bangladesh Border

562. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some representations are pending with the Union Government for setting up of Land-Customs Posts along Meghalaya-Bangladesh Border for facilitating export of traditional commodities like coal etc.;

(b) if so, the reasons for the inordinate delay in clearing the proposals;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up Barter Trade posts on the lines operating along Indo-Tibetan borders for the local populace/traders exchanging wares on nominated day bazars; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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) Yes, Sir.

(b) Opening of Land Customs Station by India requires corresponding facilities on the other side of the border in Bangladesh. Ministry of Finance had thus taken up the matter with Ministry of External Affairs, who has got in touch with Bangladesh. Bangladesh's response is still awaited.

(c) No Sir There is no proposal to set-up Barter-Trade Posts on Indo-Bangladesh Borders.

(d) In view of (c) above, does not arise.

Fall in Pepper Prices

563. SHRI P. SANKARAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the new export policy of Government has resulted drastic fall in Pepper price in domestic market; and

(b) if so, the step Government propose to take to boost the Pepper price for the benefit of Pepper growers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Foreign Aided Projects

564. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of foreign aided projects being implemented in Andhra Pradesh at present;

(b) the total amount spent so far on these projects;

(c) the extent to which these projects are lagging behind the time schedule; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government as well as by the State Government to complete these projects at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) At present there are twenty five externally aided projects being implemented in the State of Andhra Pradesh. The total amount spent on these projects so far is Rs. 3204.69 crore. While there have been slippages in some of these projects, the overall performance of externally aided projects in Andhra Pradesh is satisfactory.

(d) The Union Government has taken several steps to improve utilisation of foreign aid, such as release of 100% external assistance as Additional Central Assistance (ACA) to the State in all sectors, release of advance ACA in the beginning of financial year, intensified monitoring of projects through quarterly reviews by the Department of Economic Affairs, setting up of a project Management Unit in the Department of Economic Affairs as well as appointment of a Nodal Officer for the state. An external aid monitoring information system to strengthen external Portfolio management is being implemented in the Department of Economic Affairs and select States/Central Ministries. Andhra Pradesh is one of the nine select state in this project.

At the state level, the performance of externally aided projects is being reviewed at the level of Chief Minister/Chief Secretary on a regular basis. A Project Management Unit has also been set up in the State Finance Department for monitoring externally aided projects.