

all commercial banks have been issued direction by RBI to earmark for housing sector lending 3% as against existing 1.5% of their incremental deposits as on the last reporting Friday of March, 1999 over the corresponding figure of the last reporting Friday of March 1998. Also the target for financing construction of dwelling units under Golden Jubilee Rural Housing Finance Scheme (GJRHFS) has been increased by 25% for 1999-2000 i.e., 1.25 lakh dwelling units.

#### Export of Marine And Agro-Based Products

3710. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development proposes to encourage export of agricultural and agro-based products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the incentives given for export of these products?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that it encourages refinancing of schemes leading to export of agricultural and agro-based products such as poultry, marine and fisheries products of shrimp farming, surmi production, etc. NABARD has further reported that so far 639 schemes for shrimp farming with financial outlay of Rs.756.32 crore, bank loan of Rs.323.88 crore and NABARD refinance assistance of Rs.262.28 crore have been sanctioned. As on February, 1999, the bank loan disbursed against the same is Rs.207.29 crore and refinance assistance is Rs. 169.15 crore. Besides shrimp farming two schemes for surmi production have been sanctioned in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra with financial assistance of Rs. 15 crore, bank loan of Rs. 4.30 crore and refinance assistance of Rs. 2.37 crore. NABARD gives priority for export oriented schemes while considering for refinance. As regards poultry products mostly schemes in the nature of production for specific pathogen free eggs, integrated broiler production-cum-processing are also to processing of poultry meat into value added products are considered for sanction by NABARD. However no special incentives are being given by NABARD.

#### Land for Tea Cultivation

3711. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Assam Tea Association has requested the Union Government to provide more land to produce sufficient quantity of Tea to meet the requirement of the country; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Export of Agricultural Products

3712. SHRI SADASHIVRAO D. MANDLIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names and quantity of agricultural products exported and the amount of foreign exchange earned therefrom during the last three years ;

(b) the percentage of export of agricultural products against the total exports; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the export of agricultural products ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) The country's total exports and agricultural exports (in terms of value Rs. in crore) and the percentage share of export of agricultural products to total exports during the last three years is as under :-

#### Export of Agricultural Products

Year	Country's total Exports (Rs. in Crores)	Agricultural Exports (Rs. in Crores)	% share of Agricultural Exports against Country's total Exports
1995-96	106353.35	17496.40	16.45
1996-97	118817.31	24362.57	20.50
1997-98	126285.76	23798.37	18.80

(Source DGCI & S, Calcutta)

Some of the agricultural products exported are rice (basmati and non-basmati), coffee, tea, cashewnuts, tobacco, deoiled cakes, fruits and vegetables, HPS groundnuts, sesame seeds, floricultural items meat and meat products.

The details of quality and value of each of the agricultural product exported and the amount of foreign exchange earned therefrom during the last three years are available in monthly/annual number of Foreign Trade Statistics of India published by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), Calcutta copies of which are placed in the Parliament Library.

(c) Some of the steps taken/proposed to be taken for enhancement of the exports of agricultural products include:

1. Providing assistance for raising small and large nurseries for production of good quality planting material, upgradation of technical knowhow of farmers through demonstrations, trainings and publicity, rejuvenation of old orchards, area expansion, supply of minikits for vegetables, improving productivity and training of farmers.