

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of places where this facility of PAN is available at present;
- (d) the outcome of this system and the other features of the scheme;
- (e) whether any fine is likely to be imposed on the assessee who fail to get the PAN; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Value Rs. Crores

Qty.: MT

Item	1995-96		1996-97	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
(i) Chillies	56,073	194.15	51,900	209.64
(ii) Cardamom (Small)	500	12.39	240	9.21
(iii) Cardamom (Large)	1,784	12.33	1,450	10.47

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. As part of the Comprehensive Computerisation Plan of the Income Tax Department, a new series of Permanent Account Number has been introduced. In the first phase, Permanent Account Number under new series is being allotted to tax payers in city regions of Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai. Allotment of Permanent Account Number under new series in rest of the country is being taken up in the current financial year.

(d) As against 28.76 lakh assesseees on the registers of the Department in the city regions of Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai and 21.44 lakh assesseees, who had filed returns during 1996-97, so far 19.70 lakh assesseees have applied for Permanent Account Number under new series. So far 14.23 lakh assesseees have been allotted Permanent Account Number under new series.

(e) and (f) Failure to comply with the provisions of Section 139 A of the Income-tax Act, 1961 which deals with requirement of obtaining Permanent Account Number, attracts penalty of a sum, which shall not be less than Rs. 500/- but which may extend upto Rs. 10,000/- for each default or failure.

Export of Spices

650. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether after having topped in the spices export during 1995-96, export of chillies declined 7 per cent in quantity terms during 1996-97;
- (b) if so, whether small and large cardamon, too, decreased considerably during the previous financial year;
- (c) if so, whether chillies replaced pepper as the largest exported commodity among spices during 1995-96;
- (d) if so, whether export of small caddamum dipped to an abysmal; and
- (e) if so, the main reasons for fall in export of cardamom and chillies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (e) Details of exports of chillies, cardamom (small) and cardamom (large) during 1995-96 and 1996-97 are given below:-

Exports of chillies during 1995-96 were exceptionally good due to heavy purchases by UAE, Pakistan and Bangladesh as a result of fall in Production in China and Pakistan. While pepper has replaced chillies as the largest commodity exported amongst the spices during 1996-97, exports of chillies have increased 8% in value terms. The decline in exports of small cardamom has been mainly due to stiff price competition offered by Guatemala and increased domestic demand. In case of large cardamom, the decline was due to lesser imports by Pakistan.

Modernised Company Act

651. SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR:

SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware that apart from corporate entities and apex chambers of Commerce and Industry, lakhs of public investors, debenture holders and depositors who have made investment in the equity of the companies or have lodged this funds with them have substantive interest in the 'Modernised Companies Act' which would replace Companies Act, 1956;
- (b) if so, whether the Government have taken any steps to associate these interested groups in formulation of the proposed Companies Act;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government propose to circulate the proposed legislation to elicit public opinion; and
- (e) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The Government constituted on 5.8.1996 a Working Group comprising of persons having knowledge of law, economics and company affairs to submit a working draft of the Companies Bill, 1997. A Working Draft of the Companies Bill was submitted by this Group on 2.5.1997 which was circulated for public debate.

The Government has received several suggestions/comments/observations on the Working Draft from individuals and investors' associations proposing setting up of an Investors Protection Fund and other measures relating to investors' interests. These suggestions have been taken into account while finalising the provisions of draft Companies Bill, 1997. The Companies Bill 1997 is likely to be introduced in the current Session of Parliament.

Handicraft Design Centres

652. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of handicrafts design centres operating in Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) whether the number of such centres is less than required;
- (c) if so, whether the Government propose to formulate any scheme to set up more such centres; and
- (d) if so, the places where these centres are proposed to be set up and the estimated amount to be spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (d) No handicrafts design centre is operating in the state of Uttar Pradesh and there is no proposal to set up any such centre in near future in the State as the existing Regional Design & Technical Development Centre at Okhla, New Delhi, is catering to the needs of artisans for design development in Northern Region including the State of Uttar Pradesh.

Development of Jute Industry

653. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Jute the obscure rises from the ashes" appearing in the "Business Standard", New Delhi dated June 19, 1997;
- (b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and
- (c) the manner in which the Government are monitoring the UNDP aided programme to revitalise the ailing industry by developing existing new uses for jute?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Govt. of India have launched a National Jute Programme with an assistance of US\$ 23 million from UNDP and equal matching contribution from the Govt. The primary objective of the Programme is to facilitate diversification in the jute sector and to strengthen R&D capacity through development of indigenous machinery and provide

infrastructural support for transfer of technology, market promotion and enhancement of exports.

(c) An Inter-Ministerial Group constituting the Programme Management Board supervises the implementation of the UNDP Jute Programme. The Group is headed by Secretary (Textiles) with representatives from Ministry of Finance, Agriculture and Planning Commission. In addition, a Steering Committee is responsible for coordinating and overseeing the implementation of the Programme.

Import of Newsprint Through STC

654. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to import newsprint through State Trading Corporation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (c) The Government do not propose to import newsprint through State Trading Corporation. In accordance with the existing provisions of the current IMPEX Policy, import of newsprint is permissible subject to "Actual User" condition to those who hold Registration Certificate issued by the Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI).

Textiles Mills

655. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of cotton, polyester, synthetic and woollen mills at present in Rajasthan and Gujarat alongwith the locations thereof; and the quantum of cloth manufactured by them during the last three years; and
- (b) the efforts being made by the Government for revival of the textiles mills of these States have been closed down?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) A Statement is attached.

(b) Government has set up the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) to enquire into the working of sick industrial companies and to prepare and sanction, as appropriate, schemes for their revival.

Statement

There is no restriction on using any type of fibre/yarn in manufacturing of cloth. Mills are using different types of yarn.

The number of cotton/mam-made fibre composite textile mills, weaving units and woollen units in the State of Rajasthan and Gujarat as on 31/3/97 is given below: