

(b) If so, whether the Mango growers of the State are suffering heavy losses for want of proper marketing facility;

(c) If so, whether the Government propose to set up an Export Promotion Authority for Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) No estimates on production on mango available for the current season.

(c) No proposal to set up an Export Promotion Authority for Uttar Pradesh is under the consideration of the Government.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Probe Into Banks Collusion

550. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer given to Unstarred Question No. 533 dated November 22, 1996 regarding probe into banks collusion in shoe scam and state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in the matter against the banks that colluded with the firms in shoe scam giving the names of the banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that a communication has been received from Deputy Commissioner of Police, Mumbai stating that an offence under IPC has been registered against some leading shoe companies and various leather co-operative societies to investigate into the alleged misutilisation of finance meant for weaker sections of the society, such as artisans/cobblers co-operative societies. The Police has not referred to irregularities on the part of financing banks.

As desired by the Police authorities RBI, in January, 1997, has advised all concerned commercial banks to supply the details of transactions, from 1980 onwards, with any of the listed cobbler co-operative societies. RBI have also reiterated to the banks that while sanctioning/disbursing loans and advances and other facilities under priority sector to artisans/cobblers societies, they are expected to ensure that the applicants are genuine and are engaged in the activity for which the particular scheme is designed. Banks have also been advised that none of the procedures (including verification of genuineness of the

borrowing parties) laid down for grant of loans, advances should be overlooked merely because guarantees have been obtained therefor. It has also been reiterated to banks that they are expected to have an effective post-disbursement supervision and follow up of loans/advances to ensure the end use of funds lent.

20 Sick CPSU Referred to BIFR

551. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation comprising some Members of Parliament and representatives of all Central Trade Unions met the Prime Minister last year and submitted a memorandum on 20 sick Central Public Sector Undertakings in the Centre which stands referred to BIFR;

(b) whether the Prime Minister had assured them that the status of the above PSUs would be reviewed and the action plan of the Government on each of the units would be announced shortly;

(c) whether the Government have no finalised any revival plan for these units;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) As per records available in the Prime Minister's Office, no delegation comprising of some Members of Parliament and representatives of Central Trade Unions met the Hon'ble Prime Minister last year (1996) to submit a Memorandum on sick Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) referred to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). However, a Memorandum dated 9.5.1997 signed by Members of Parliament from West Bengal has been received by the Hon'ble Prime Minister regarding sick Central PSUs in West Bengal. Subsequently, a meeting was taken by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 16.5.1997 in the above matter.

(c) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Indo-Pak Trade Relations

552. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA:

SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to strengthen the Indo-Pak trade relations;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government seeks an overall improvement in Indo-Pak relations including by strengthening trade between the two countries. The Joint Statement issued at Islamabad at the conclusion of foreign Secretary level talks between India and Pakistan in June '97, identified Economic and Commercial Cooperation as one of the subjects for future discussions with the objective of strengthening trade relations and it was decided to set up working groups at appropriate levels to address the various issues identified in this connection. The next round of Foreign Secretary level talks is scheduled to take place in September '97.

Jewellery Policy

553. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Revenue deptt. dilemma over gems, jewellery policy" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated June 30, 1997;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government to the observations made therein and the facts of the matter;

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the details of the proposals under consideration for making changes in EXIM policy and the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Interministerial discussions are an established procedure in the Government to arrive at decisions. Following such procedure, a large number of Notifications and instructions have been issued by Department of Revenue after the EXIM Policy for 1997-2002 was notified. Some other issues are under examination in consultation with the Ministry of Commerce.

Export Oriented Units

554. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of our exports through export processing zones and export oriented units during each of the last three years;

(b) the value contents of exports and imports of EPZs/EPU's during each of the last three years;

(c) the details of export processing zones and value of exports from each zone; and

(d) names of new export processing zones to be developed during the Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (c) A Statement is attached.

(d) Keeping in view the availability of funds and the need to optimise the infrastructural facilities in the existing Export Processing Zones, there is no proposal, at present for Central Govt. to set up new Zones in the country. However, Export Processing Zones can now be established by State Governments or in joint/private sector.

Statement

Year	Exports made by Export Oriented Units (EOUs) and Units in Export Processing Zones (EPZs). (Rs. Crores)	Imports made by Export Oriented Units (EOUs) and Units and Export Processing Zones (EPZs) (Rs. Crores)	Percentage of EOU and EPZ exports in the total exports of the country
1994-95	7363.11	3077.28	8.90
1995-96	10229.88	5920.95	9.61
1996-97	12527.73	7015.48	10.42
(Estimated)			