

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) and (b) The Central Administrative Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi, in a batch of applications filed before it, has held that the applicants (who represent a section of the Central Government employees) shall be entitled to the payment of Productivity Linked Bonus/Ex-gratia as long as their emoluments do not exceed Rs. 3500/- per month, as against the existing eligibility ceiling of Rs. 2500 per month. The order of the Tribunal is receiving attention of Government.

Export of Industrial Goods

725. SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken or propose to take any steps to increase the export of industrial goods; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The Government have recently introduced far-reaching reforms in the export-import policy aimed at reducing controls through licensing, strengthening export incentives and linking import capability in a wide range of imports to export earnings. These are designed to improve the export environment which will lead to increase in production and improvement in the quality of export of industrial goods. Besides, the downward adjustment in the value of Rupee effected by Reserve Bank of India on 1st and 3rd July, 1991 is also expected to improve India's export earnings.

Export of Tea

726. SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quantity of tea exported in 1990 fell in quantity though

it earned more in terms of value as compared to the previous year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the Government propose to export more tea in international market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The export of tea during 1990 has been estimated at 199.66 M.Kgs. valued at Rs. 1028.20 crore with unit price of Rs. 51.50 per kg. as compared to 212.66 M.Kgs. (provisional) valued at Rs. 848.98 crore with unit price of Rs. 39.92 during 1989.

The Gulf-crisis, rising domestic demand and stiff competition abroad have been the main reasons for decline of exports in quantity terms while increased unit price has earned higher value realisation over the last year.

(c) The objective of the Govt. is to maximise export of tea and at the same time to ensure availability of adequate quantity of tea at reasonable price for domestic consumption.

Export of Betel Leaves

727. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to promote the export of Betel Leaves?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Export of betel leaves is allowed on de-controlled basis without any licensing formalities. Replenishment rate of 30 per cent has been provided in the new trade policy to promote their export.