

<i>Year</i>	<i>Quantity M. Kgs.</i>	<i>Value Rs. Crores</i>	<i>Unit Value Rs. per kg.</i>
1988-89	204.08	635.28	31.13
1989-90	210.62	904.72	42.86
1990-91*	199.48	1045.41	52.40

*Estimated

It may be seen that the value realisation as well as unit value realisation has shown an increase while the quantity exported has stagnated at the level of around 200 M. Kgs.

(b) The rising domestic demand is the major reason for tagnation in the quantity of tea exports.

(c). The measures taken by the Government to boost exports include:-

- (i) Enhancing production and productivity to increase availability for exports;
- (ii) Devaluation of the Indian Rupee which has made our tea more competitive;
- (iii) Providing exim scrips against exports to encourage export of tea; and
- (iv) Promotion of Indian tea through the foreign offices and participation in trade fairs.

[English]

Widening of National Highway No. 1 to Four Lanes

1407. SHRI PAWANKUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANS-

PORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to widen the National Highway No. 1 between Sonipat and Amritsar to four lanes;

(b) if so, when the work is likely to be started; and

(c) the time schedule for its completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). National Highway No. 1 links Delhi with Amritsar. Stretches of this National Highway, viz. from Delhi upto Murthal (near Sonapat) in Haryana, and Ludhiana) to Goraya in Punjab, are already 4 lane. In addition, work of widening is in progress from Murthal to Kamal in Haryana, and from Sirhind to Ludhiana and Goraya to Jalandhar in Punjab. Widening from Kamal to Sirhind is proposed to be carried out under the Second World Bank Loan which is yet to be signed with the Bank. There is at present no proposal to widen Jalandhar-Amritsar section.

(c) It is too early to give time schedule for 4 laning of entire reach of the National Highway from Sonapat to Amritsar.

SLPs on service matters pending in Supreme Court

1408. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUS-

TICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to undertake a review of all pending Special Leave Petitions on service matters from the Supreme Court to withdraw all such SLPs where neither any substantial question of law nor question of public importance is involved;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and how the Government propose to provide speedy justice to the Government servants; and

(c) the details of the SLPs pending in the Supreme Court till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMANTRAY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS: (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b). The matter is under consideration of the Government.

(c) As on 27th November, 1991, 9238 SLPs on service matters are pending in the Supreme Court.

[*Translation*]

Trade with France

1409. SHRI SIMON MARANDI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has urged France in October, 1991 to double the trade between the two countries;

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard by the Indo-French Joint Trade Council; and

(c) the names of the commodities likely to be imported from France and exported

from India, their prices and mutually agreed rates and the details of other conditions laid down in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The scope for a quantum jump in Indo-French bilateral trade was referred to in the meeting of the Joint Business Council held on 23rd October, 1991 in New Delhi.

(b) The Indo-French Joint Business Council is promoting greater interaction between businessmen on both sides and disseminating relevant information.

(c) The commodities involved in two-way trade and their prices are determined by importers and exporters on either side.

Licences for Opium Farming

1410. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers growing opium had to suffer heavy losses last year due to opium crops being afflicted with diseases;

(b) whether the farmers have to give a fixed proportion of their produce to the Government falling which their licences are cancelled; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government to ensure that the licences of the farmers are not cancelled for not supplying the fixed proportion of their produce because of the disease-afflicted opium crops last year so that they may continue to grow opium?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c). During crop year 1990-1991, poppy crop was adversely affected by pests, insects and hail-