

(c) whether the Government propose to allow the merchants to bid for coffee in the auction; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). There is no demand to cancel the licences of coffee merchants.

(c) and (d). The Coffee Board is already allowing Pool Sale Dealers to participate in the auctions. The Coffee Board is marketing coffee in the domestic market mainly through Pool Sale auctions attended by Pool Sale Dealers.

[*Translation*]

Smuggling of Cotton from Maharashtra

2958. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether cotton is being smuggled out from Maharashtra in large quantity;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the value of cotton smuggled out during the current season;

(d) the total loss suffered by the Government thereby; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b). There are reports of some cotton being smuggled out of Maharashtra to the neighbouring States as the

guaranteed prices under the Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme in the State are less as compared to the market prices in the neighbouring States.

(c) and (d). In view of the nature of such operation, the value of cotton smuggled is not known and the total loss suffered by the Maharashtra Government on this account also can not be ascertained.

(e) The steps taken by the Govt. of Maharashtra to prevent smuggling of cotton from the State include the payment of 35% advance additional price over the support price to the growers, intensification of vigil in the border areas and cancellation of licenses of vehicles carrying smuggled cotton.

[*English*]

Reclamation of Cochin Port

2959. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the reclamation of South-end at Cochin Port;

(b) the total cost of this project; and

(c) how this area is proposed to be used?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Out of 19 hectares of land which has been undertaken by Cochin Port for reclamation, 7 hectares have already been reclaimed. The rest of the reclamation is scheduled to be completed by November, 1992.

(b) The total cost of the project is Rs. 4.77 crores.

(c) The area when developed will be

used for commercial purposes connected with the port activities.

Export Processing Zones

2960. SHRI ANNA JOSHI:
SHRIMATI MAHENDRA
KUMARI:
SHRI CHETAN P.S.
CHAUHAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up some more Export Processing Zones in the country during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). There is no proposal at present to set up more Export Processing Zones.

Indian Investment Centre

2961. SHRI ANNA JOSHI:
SHRI DATTATRAYA BAN-
DAREE:
SHRIMATI DIPIKA H.
TOPIWALA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to strengthen the Indian Investment Centre to encourage large scale foreign investments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c). The performance

of Indian Investment Centre is reviewed from time to time and necessary measures taken regarding its role in mobilizing foreign investment.

[Translation]

Women Judges in High Courts

2962. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS
VARMA:
DR. Y.S. RAJASEKHAR
REDDY:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not filling up the vacant posts of judges in various High Courts, particularly in Gujarat High Court;

(b) the number of vacant posts filled up during the last six months, court-wise; and

(c) whether adequate number of vacancies are not being filled up from amongst the senior lady advocates in the High Courts, particularly in Gujarat High Court; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to fill up these vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (d). A statement indicating the appointments made in the High Courts from 1.9.1991 till date is attached.

For filling up the vacant posts in the High Courts the process of consultation among the Constitutional authorities concerned has been expedited.