

(b) to (d) An Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) is functioning in the Ministry of Commerce since 1992 to provide single window clearance to the proposals for setting up of Inland Container Depots (ICDs)/Container Freight Stations (CFSs) in the country. Setting up of ICDs/GFSs is an ongoing process. No specific targets are formulated - year-wise, region-wise, etc. The proposals are considered by the IMC as and when received, on merits. Both public and private sector are allowed to set up ICDs/CFSs.

(e) The Government does not allocate any funds for the purpose. Of the 85 ICDs/ CFSs approved by the IMC on ICDs/CFSs so far, 41 have started functioning. Others are at different stages of implementation. Also, out of the approved 85, 6 dry ports have been cancelled on different grounds, including on the request of the entrepreneur. Further as stated in the statement, 31 ICDs/CFSs were functioning prior to the setting up of the IMC on ICDs/CFSs.

Statement

State-Wise Break of ICDs/CFSs

Name of the State	ICDs/CFSs Functioning Prior to const. of IMC	ICDs/CFSs Approved by IMC
Tamil Nadu	5	16
Maharashtra	7	15
Uttar Pradesh	1	10
Rajasthan	1	7
Kerala	-	6
Gujarat	3	6
Punjab	3	4
West Bengal	-	5
Haryana	1	6
Madhya Pradesh	-	3
Karnataka	1	2
Orissa	-	2
Bihar	-	1
Andhra Pradesh	6	1
Goa	-	1
Assam	1	-
Delhi	2	-
Total :	31	85

* - Out of 85 projects, 6 (Six) have been cancelled on various grounds (including on the request of entrepreneur). Details as under : Maharashtra - 1, Uttar Pradesh - 2, Haryana - 2, Kerala - 1

Misuse of VABAL by STC

2611. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence is investigating into the role of the State Trading Corporation for misusing Value Based Advance Licence Scheme (VABAL) in export of plastic garbage bags to Dubai in collusion with an Export House of Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (c) No, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence is not investigating into the role of the State Trading Corporation in the alleged misuse of the Value Based Advance Licensing Scheme (VABAL) in the export of plastic, garbage bags to Dubai in collusion with an Export House of Delhi.

However, the Directorate had investigated one case relating to M/s. Crufford India Ltd., New Delhi, in which the STC officials brokered export deals, where it is suspected that the Delhi firm enjoyed undue duty free import benefit under the VARAL Scheme. Show Cause Notice for over valuation of export products of a declared FOB value of Rs. 3.45 crores has been issued by the Commissioner of Customs (Air Cargo), Delhi on 29.12.97 in this case.

While there is no evidence with the Directorate to suggest abetment of STC officials in this fraud, their role is being investigated by the CBI separately.

Financial Assistance for Coir Development

2612. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state the financial assistance provided by the Union Government to the Government of Kerala for its Integrated Coir Development Project during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : The financial assistance provided by the Union Government to the Government of Kerala for its Integrated Coir Development Project during each of the last three years is as follows:-

1995-96	Nil
1996-97	Rs. 365.65 lakhs.
1997-98	Rs. 145.35 lakhs.