

(e) the names of the countries which are in competition with India ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) to (c) No target for export of handicrafts by the turn of century have yet been fixed.

During the year 1997-98 the export of handicrafts including hand-knotted carpets has recorded a growth of 14.73% in rupee terms and 4.76% in dollar terms.

(d) The steps taken to further improve the handicrafts exports include: sponsoring of sales-cum-study teams abroad; participation in international fairs/festivals; conducting of workshops and seminars; overseas publicity; organisation of buyer-seller's meets and organisation of Indian Handicrafts and Gift fair and Carpet Expo annually.

(e) The major competitor countries of India in handicrafts are China, Thailand, South Korea, Phillipine, Iran, Nepal, Turkey and Pakistan etc.

Increase in export

4581. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have identified the areas in which our country's exports have increased due to liberalisation, Privatisation and Globalisation policies pursued by the Government during the last five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) The areas in which our country's exports have increased due to liberalisation, Privatisation and Globalisation policies pursued by the Government during the last five years is enclosed in the form of Statement.. However, some variations in year to year growth have been witnessed on account of sectoral factors and other domestic and international factors.

(c) The question does not arise.

Statement

Export of principal commodities showing increase during the last five years (value in US \$ million)

Commodities						Percentage growth				
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Plantations	511.63	646.02	799.48	693.99	841.32	9.5	26.3	23.8	-13.2	21.2
Agri & Allied Products	2495.84	2393.66	4240.57	4596.29	4175.72	24.5	-4.1	77.2	8.4	-9.2
Gems & Jewellery	3995.59	4500.37	5275.21	4752.71	5116.01	17.2	12.6	17.2	-9.9	7.6
Sports Goods	444.48	65.82	73.74	78.05	77.81	12	48	12	5.8	-0.3
Chemical & Related	2486.72	3215.54	3790.05	4102.65	4494.02	17.9	29.3	17.9	8.2	9.5
Product Engineering Goods	2697.58	3019.1	3607.43	4055.14	4193.34	19.5	11.9	19.5	12.4	3.4
Electronic Goods	326.25	467.43	751.08	854.91	745.15	60.7	43.3	60.7	13.8	-12.8
Project Goods	22.69	21.49	32.48	52.64	43.39	51.1	-5.3	51.1	62.1	-17.6
Textiles	4904.06	6557.74	7468.72	8045.32	8238.44	13.9	33.7	13.9	7.7	2.4
Handicrafts	318.53	386.32	433.95	475.67	518.58	12.3	21.3	12.3	9.6	9

Source - DGCI & S Calcutta.

India Tobacco Company

4582. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the ITC's latest financial results showed that huge profits did not made adequate provisions for excise evasion claims, FERA violation penalties loss of 100% subsidiary ITC Global Limited, Singapore to reflect the true

and fair view of the company as pointed out by several analysts;

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

(c) whether some inquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the results thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

ESSAR Group

4583. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Income Tax Department have revealed recently that ESSAR group have furnished less returns on profit of several crores of rupees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the fine imposed on the company in this regard, till date;

(d) whether any penal action have also been taken against the officials of the company; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Investment by Foreign Company in Infrastructure

4584. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any foreign company has made investment in infrastructure in the country during 1997-98, as on date; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) and (b) Sir, a total number of 1747 proposals envisaging foreign direct investment amounting to Rs. 46696.94 crores in different sectors including infrastructure, have been approved during the period 1.4.97 to 31.5.98. Total inflows amounting to Rs. 13766.60 crores have been received during this period. The details of such proposal viz. Name and country of Foreign collaborator, percentage of equity, items of manufacture/activity and location of the project are published on a monthly basis in STA Newsletter which is widely circulated, including the Parliament library.

Export Silk Waste

4585. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a high level meeting was held on shortage in silk waste consequent to the increasing export of silk waste from the country;

(b) if so, whether the Union Minister held a discussion with Chairman of the Silk Board in Bangalore has discussed various issues about silk reeler and spun silk manufacturers and sort out in mutual interest;

(c) if so, whether after discussion, the Government had no choice but to step in and impose restrictions on silk waste exports; and

(d) if so, the price for per Kg. fixed for silk waste ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) The previous Union Minister for Textiles had taken a meeting with the representatives of both silk reelers and spun silk mills owners on 15.11.97 in which Chairman, Central Silk Board (CSB) was also present. In this meeting it was decided that a Committee of the representative of the spun silk industry and the reelers will be formed which will decide a mutually acceptable band of silk waste prices that would rule for next one year. However, no acceptable arrangement could be negotiated for implementation.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. No restrictions have yet been proposed by the Government of India.

Financial Assistance by European Commission

4586. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether European Commission has decided to provide Rs. 42.43 crores for implementation of 29 projects under the European Union-Indian Economic Cross Cultural Programme; and

(b) if so, the details of projects which are likely to be undertaken under this assistance, location-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The projects which are to be implemented by different organisations and agencies located in India and in EU countries pertain to (i) University Dimension (ii) Enterprise Dimension, and (iii) Media Dimension. The projects cover social, economic, environmental and technological issues; development of small and medium enterprises, energy, transport, current affairs etc.