

(c) The Government have considered the suggestion. The provisions under section 80-IA are meant to extend fiscal incentives for the development of basic infrastructure like roads, highways, ports etc.; power; telecommunication; and industrial parks.

(d) The proposal for revising the provision of section 80-IA into two sections namely section 80-IA and section 80-IB are contained in the Finance Bill, 1999. However, there is no proposal with the regard to the specific suggestion of the Gujarat Government referred to in (b) above.

(e) Does not arise in view of (c) and (d) above.

**Duty Drawback Claims**

1624. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL :  
SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the revenue department go slow on settling duty drawback claims of exporters in the last three-four months of the every financial year;

(b) whether this step is taken for filling the gap of revenue deficit in that particular year;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to take these duty drawback claims to the new financial year;

(d) if so, the total amount so far carried forward for duty drawback claims for the next financial year during the last three financial years; and

(e) its likely effect on exports?

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) and (b) No. Sir. Revenue Department have not issued any instructions to go slow on the settlement of drawback claims.

(c) to (e) All completed duty drawback claims which are received in the Customs Houses are processed and drawback sanctioned within two months as per provisions of Customs Act and Drawback Rules. In case the claim is not settled with two months of filing a completed drawback claim, the Government is liable to pay interest to the claimant for period of delay beyond two months. The period beyond which interest is payable by the Government has been reduced recently to two months from the earlier period of three months in order to expedite the settlement of drawback claims.

**Export of Vegetables**

1625. SHRI R.S. GAVAI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the country's annual earnings from the export of vegetables during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government have prepared any action plan on export strategy for promoting vegetable export;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) The annual earnings from the export of fresh vegetables during the last three years are as follows:—

Year	Value (Rs. crores)
1995-96	301.19
1996-97	341.16
1997-98	319.45

(b) to (d) The Government has been implementing various measures to boost production and export of horticultural products including vegetables. These

include :—

- (i) Providing assistance for raising small and large nurseries for production of good quality planting material, upgradation of technical knowhow of farmers through demonstrations, trainings and publicity, rejuvenation of old orchards, area expansion, supply of minikits for vegetables, improving productivity and training of farmers under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Integrated Development of Tropical, Temperate and Arid Zone fruits.
- (ii) Provision of soft loans for setting up of grading/processing centres, auction platforms, ripening/curing chambers and quality testing equipment.
- (iii) Providing financial assistance to exporters/growers/Cooperative Societies for development of infrastructural facilities such as purchase of specialised transport units, establishment of pre cooling/cold storage facilities, integrated post-harvest handling systems (pack houses);
- (iv) Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging, and strengthening of quality control including adoption of latest ISO 9000/HACCP systems at export units;
- (v) Grant of air freight subsidy for export of selected fresh vegetables and fresh fruits.
- (vi) Establishment of vapour heat treatment facilities for improving the acceptability of the product especially mangoes in overseas markets. Research efforts are on for the use of modern technologies such as Controlled/Modified Atmosphere technologies in transportation for increasing the shelf-life of perishable products;
- (vii) Arranging promotional campaigns such as buyer-seller meets and participation in important international fairs and exhibitions;

- (viii) Setting up of integrated cargo handling and cold storage facilities at various International Airports for handling export of perishable items such as fresh fruits and vegetables;
- (ix) Providing technical advisory services and other support services to, trade and industry including training of farmers for export production, quality control packaging, transport, etc.

#### On-going Irrigation Projects

1626. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL :  
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :  
SHRI VITHAL TUPE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development has sanctioned loan for the completion of certain on-going irrigation projects in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the details of loan sanctioned by the bank for the purpose during the last three years, project-wise and State-wise;
- (c) whether some more proposals for financing the irrigation projects are pending with the NABARD; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the stage at which these proposals are pending?

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) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has been sanctioning loans for the completion of certain on-going irrigation projects in different States of the country under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDE). The details of the State-wise and project-wise sanctions are given in the attached statement I to IV.