

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted any representation for promoting the Coir Geo-Textiles Industry;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) to (e) There are several Government assisted schemes for promoting the production and marketing of coir products including Coir Geo-Textiles. These schemes are implemented by the Coir Board on behalf of the Government of India. Special attention is being paid to production and marketing of Coir Geo-Textiles which have tremendous potential for use in soil erosion control programmes in India as also in foreign countries considering overall emphasis on environment friendly products in this area.

[Translation]

#### Copper Factories

1621. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of places where copper based industries have been set up, State-wise, and the areas thereof;

(b) the progress made to increase the production capacity of these industries;

(c) whether the Government have made any arrangement for the haulage of raw material excavated from the mines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

#### Contingent Fund

1622. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of Government for setting of Contingent Fund for projects to cover liabilities arising out of the Central/State Government's guarantees, as suggested by the Planning Commission;

(b) if so, details of the proposal; and

(c) the present status of its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) It has been decided to set up a Guarantee Redemption Fund for expeditious settlement of claims arising out of invocation of Government Guarantee. For this purpose, a provision of Rs. 50 crore has been made in the BE 1999-2000 as initial contribution for building up the corpus of the Fund.

#### Income Tax Exemption to ITIs

1623. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from any State Government for exemption from payment of Income Tax for investments towards providing infrastructural facilities to private ITIs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon;

(d) whether the Government have any plan to revise the provisions of Section 80-IA of Income Tax Act, 1961; 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) Reference has been received from the Adl. Secretary, Government of Gujarat forwarded by Shri Y.K. Alagh, ex-Minister of State for granting income tax exemption to investment made for setting up infrastructure facilities like private ITIs under the provisions of section 80-IA of the Income-tax Act.

(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