

**Creation of "Gulf Relief Fund" By Japan**

434. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Japan has raised "Gulf Relief Fund" to help Bharat, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Pakistan and other Asian countries to tide over the problems arising from Gulf situation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Union Government have apprised the Government of Japan of its requirements and the nature and quantum thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d). Japan is reported to have pledged economic aid of US \$ 2 billion to the frontline States of Egypt, Jordan and Turkey. Government of India have apprised Government of Japan of the negative impact of the Gulf crisis. We have approached the Government of Japan to consider possible assistance for meeting our external financing requirements.

***Leasing of Forest Land to Industrial Houses in Kerala***

435. SHRI PALAI K.M. MATHEW: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have approved the Kerala Government's move to lease forest lands to industrial houses like Gwalior Rayons etc.,

(b) whether this is not likely to affect the ecological balance, paddy cultivation, fire-wood requirements of the poor people and

the livelihood of thousands of locals; and

(c) if so, the remedial measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) No such proposal has been received in this Ministry.

(b) and (c). Question does not arise.

**Cardamom Production**

436. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of cardamom has not increased during the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to increase the production of cardamom?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDAS PATEL): (a) and (b). The figures of production of cardamom (small) during the last 3 years have been as follows:—

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1987-88	—	3200 MTs
1988-89	—	4250 MTs
1989-90	—	3100 MTs

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The fluctuation has been due to frequent natural calamities like drought and cyclone

(c) The Spices Board is implementing both long and short term programmes for increasing the productivity and production of cardamom through Research of high yielding varieties, and development schemes on