

the income-tax/wealth-tax/gift-tax/estate duty demand outstanding is Rs. 10 lakhs or above. There were 5098 cases in the country in which such demands of Rs. 10 lakhs or above were outstanding as on 31-3-1990. A total demand of Rs. 4450 crores was due from these taxpayers as on 31-3-1990. In view of large number, it will not be practicable to furnish other details about these taxpayers. If the Hon'ble Member desires details about any particular taxpayer, the same can be furnished.

(b) Appropriate actions to recover the taxes are taken both as per Income-tax law and also administratively. Legal actions include levy of penalty for non-payment, issue of garnishee orders to attach bank accounts, debts etc., drawing up of tax recovery statements by Tax Recovery Officers enabling them to effect recovery by attachment/sale of assets, appointment of receiver for managing defaulter's property, arrest of defaulters etc. Administratively, Action Plan Targets have been fixed for reduction of outstanding demands and the progress of recovery is monitored at various levels.

[English] 161

Availability of Gold for Jewellery Export

2653. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are contemplating any steps to ensure easy availability of gold for export production in the jewellery sector;

(b) whether the representatives of trade and industry have submitted any memorandum in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) when a decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SHREEDHARAN): (a) to (d) Government has

taken a series of measures to improve the availability of gold for export production of jewellery taking into account the suggestions of the trade & industry. These include special arrangements by the Minerals & Metals Trading Corp. of India Ltd. (MMTC) for supply of gold to specialised Gem and Jewellery Export Production complexes, repeal of the Gold Control Act and availability of credit. Further input support is being extended whenever necessary in consultation with trade and industry.

162 **Boosting of Export**

2654. SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have initiated any policy measures to do away with unnecessary controls so as to boost exports, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the steps taken to realise the export targets set for the year 1990-91;

(c) whether Government have identified any select band of exporters for providing them with tailor-made package of assistance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SHREEDHARAN): (a) As per the Import-Export Policy (Vol. II) 1990-93, most of the items are free for export, except a limited number under the Export Control to avoid internal shortages, conserve national resources and to protect the environment. Some of the measures taken in the recent past to do away with unnecessary controls so as to boost exports are as follows: Prior to 4th May, 1990, export licence was required for export of Polyester Filament Yarn (All types), Rayon Filament Yarn, Nylon Filament Yarn, Viscose Staple Fibre, Spun Yarn and High performance viscose staple Fibre. Now export licences are not required and export of these

items can be made through Synthetic & Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council, Bombay within the prescribed ceiling. Minimum Export Price on export of Psyllium seed, husk & powder and Kuth has been done away with.

(b) With a view to achieve the export target set for the year 1990-91, the Government has initiated several measures to make the export commercially viable through upgrading industrial efficiency, ensuring supply of raw materials at competitive prices, strengthening the infrastructure and simplifying procedures.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

163
Production of Natural Rubber

2655. PROF. P.J. KURIEN:
SHRI N. DENNIS:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the production of natural rubber during 1989-90;

(b) whether the Rubber Board has formulated any plan to increase the production of rubber to achieve self-sufficiency; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SHREEDHARAN): (a) The production of Natural Rubber during 1989-90 was 2,97,300 tonnes

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. A three pronged strategy on the following lines has been suggested by the Rubber Board for the 8th Plan.

(1) Expansion of area under rubber by 80,000 hectares.

(2) Replantation of old and low yielding areas with modern high yielding cultivars in an area of 40,000 hectares.

(3) Raising productivity of existing plantations by popularising adoption of modern technology in plant protection, manuring, harvesting and crop processing.

The target of production proposed for the Terminal year of 8th Plan is 4,81,000 tonnes and the outlay proposed is Rs. 256.54 crores.

164
[Translation] Akashwami

Setting up of AIR Centre for Commercial Broadcasting in Maharashtra

2656. SHRI HARI SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up All India Radio Centre for commercial broadcasting in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the names of the places which have been selected for setting up such commercial broadcasting centres in Maharashtra; and

(c) the action being taken for commissioning them expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English] Central Government
164 **Cut in Expenditure**

2657. PROF. K. V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Ministries and State Chief Ministers have been asked to cut down their expenditure by 10%; and

(b) if so, how this 10% cut will be implemented?