

(b) if so, whether the Gujarat Chambers of Commerce and Industry had requested the Chairman of Central Board of the Excise and Customs to resolve the problem;

(c) if so, whether Union Government has taken any steps to avoid closure of the brass industry in Gujarat; and

(d) if so, by what time a final decision is likely to be taken?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (d) On the representation received from the Gujarat Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the matter was examined. The reports show that there was no undue hold-up in the release of imported consignments of brass scrap at the port of Bombay. Only in a few cases of import of serviceable items or import of non-permissible items alongwith scrap, the goods were subjected to detailed examination, weighment, valuation etc. for adjudication purpose. As per the statistical information available, between 1st May, 1990 and 21st August, 1990, 382 bills of entry for brass scrap were assessed at the port of Bombay. Out of these only in 21 cases adjudication proceedings were resorted to due to import trade violations, misdeclaration and undervaluation.

In the light of these facts it cannot be urged with any justification that 3000 SSI units of Jamnagar are facing closure on account of inordinate delay in customs clearance of imported brass scrap.

241 *Fruits and Vegetables*  
**Area under Onion and Garlic Cultivation**

2734. **SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of foreign exchange earnings through the export of onion and garlic during 1989-90;

(b) whether Government have taken or propose to take any steps for

becoming a major exporter of onion and garlic; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SHREEDHARAN): (a) The total amount of foreign exchange earnings through export of onion and garlic during 1989-90 is given below:—

1989-90 (Prov.)  
 (Rs./Lakhs.)

Onion . . . . .	8454.61
Garlic . . . . .	93.05

(b) and (c) Information is given in the statement below:

**STATEMENT**

Export of onion is canalised through NAFED. Trade is also associated in its export. Since canalisation during 1974-75, continued efforts have been made to maximise onion export from the country in terms of quantity and value. India produces red and pinkish varieties of onions having pungent taste which is liked in those countries where it is being exported regularly such as Malaysia, Singapore, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Scycheles, Mauritius, Bangladesh and U.S.S.R. In Western countries white and yellow onion having less punjency are preferred by the consumers. Indian Agricultural Research Institute and Associated Development Foundation are making efforts for developing seeds for white and yellow varieties of onion preferred by the Western countries.

Garlic is exported by individual exporters registered with the Spices Board as exporters of spices. On account of high domestic demand, in the years when production is less adequate exportable surplus is not available for export. However, the Spices Board is taking a number of measures to promote export of spices including garlic. These include sponsoring of sales-cum-study delegation, publicity programmes in West Asia

and North Africa, West Europe and USA for popularising Indian Spices etc.

**Boost to Agricultural Exports**

2735. SHRI PRAKASH KOKO BRAHMBHATT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received suggestions regarding boosting exporting agricultural produce during the next five years;

(b) if so, whether any concrete plan has been prepared in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SHREEDHARAN): (a) to (c) Government has been receiving suggestions from various quarters from time to time for boosting agricultural exports. These include a stable policy framework, conscious generation of surpluses for export, establishing backward linkages, providing incentives and assistance of various kinds to exporters, designing better packaging, improving quality control measures, simplifying inspection and certification procedures, improving infrastructural support. The Government has been examining these suggestions and adopting those found feasible. It is a continuous process.

**Reduction in Fertiliser Prices by MMTC**

2736. SHRI PRAKASH KOKO BRAHMBHATT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Mineral and Metals Trading Corporation has reduced the fertilizer price upto 10% from the levels prevailing at the end of 1989.

(b) Whether the MMTC propose to sign Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Morocco for export of Indian goods; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

(SHRI ARANGIL SHREEDHARAN): (a) During 1990, MMTC has procured phosphoric acid at prices which are 10.08% lower than average procurement prices during 1989.

(b) and (c) MMTC has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Moroccan suppliers of phosphoric acid under which the Moroccan suppliers have assured co-operation in promoting exports of Indian goods worth US \$ 50 million. Detailed discussions have been initiated by the MMTC with the Moroccan suppliers of phosphoric acid to find out ways and means to achieve the objectives and to identify the organisations as well as the specific Indian products.

**Self Sufficiency in Opium Production**

2737. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MEWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of present stocks of opium and its derivatives grown in South Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether the present stocks are sufficient for medicinal needs of the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps being taken to discourage poppy cultivation by providing attractive incentives;

(e) whether national and international agencies are offering some attractive incentives; and

(f) if so, details thereof including the procedure to be followed by the cultivators for utilising such incentives?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (c) Opium, poppy cultivation for the production of opium is undertaken on account of the Central Government in the traditional poppy growing areas in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. The opium stocks are