

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Issue of Licences to Private Cashew Processors for Import of Raw Cashew-nuts

*87. **SHRI P. K. KODIYAN:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) whether some private cashew processors have been issued licences for import of raw cashew nuts from African Countries;

(b) if so, the number and names of processors who were issued licences for import of cashewnuts;

(c) the total quantity of import allowed in each case and how much has been imported so far;

(d) whether the Cashew Corporation of India had been formed with the exclusive responsibility of canalising import of raw nuts; and

(e) if so, what were the reasons that prompted Government to allow private cashew processors to import raw nuts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) to (e). Under a scheme evolved to July, 1979, eligible manufacturer-exporters could be permitted to import raw cashew from non-traditional sources. Three processing units namely S/Shri Kesav Cashew Company, Sreerama Cashew Ltd., and Shanmukha Vilas Traders have been given permission for import of 1000 tonnes of raw cashew each under this scheme but actual import has not yet materialised.

2. Direct import of 5013 tones of raw cashew by M/s. United Breweries Ltd., Bangalore for processing and re-export has also been permitted and the import has actually materialised.

3. Import of raw cashew continues to be canalised through Cashew Corporation of India. The liberalisations

referred to above were put into effect for augmenting supply of imported raw cashew in the interest of creation of additional employment opportunities and foreign exchange earnings.

Export of Cast Iron Pipes

*88. **SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the exports of cast iron pipes from the country are faced with serious setbacks following the acute shortage of pig iron and cast iron scrap;

(b) if so, whether during 1979-80 the cast iron pipes exports were at the level of Rs. 20 crores only as against the target of Rs. 35 crores;

(c) whether this performance was quite low in comparison to Rs. 27 crores of exports achieved in 1978-79; and

(d) if so, what were the main reasons for the poor performance?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). According to the provisional figures available with the Engineering Export Promotion Council, export of cast iron pipes and sanitary castings during April '79—Jan' 80 amounted to Rs. 13.56 crores as compared to Rs. 21.22 crores during the corresponding period in 1978-79.

(d) Shortage of critical inputs like pig iron, scrap, coal, coke power etc. affected the production of exportable cast iron pipes. In addition, infrastructural difficulties like congestion at the ports, lack of shipping facilities to certain destinations etc., restricted the export of this item.