

(b) the amount earmarked therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI): (a) Due to constraint on resources and other priorities on tourism schemes for the development of this area are being considered for the present in the Central Sector.

(b) Does not arise.

Import of Cashewnuts

*943. DR. KARNI SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has been importing cashewnuts from some countries;

(b) if so, the names of those countries and the quantity and value of imports during each of the last three years; and

(c) the reasons for cashewnuts import when India itself is a leading exporting country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) Yes, Sir. We are importing raw cashewnuts.

(b) Tanzania, Kenya, Mozambique, Madagascar and West Africa. The quantity and value of import during the last three years were as follows:

Year	Quantity in Metric Tonnes	Value in Rs. Crores
1971-72	1,57,277	25.35
1972-73	2,01,470	32.15
1973-74 (Provisional)	1,57,881	30.78

(c) Production of raw cashewnuts in the country is grossly inadequate to cover the installed cashew proces-

sing capacity of the exporting units. We; therefore, import raw cashewnuts and after processing, export cashew kernels, thereby increasing the foreign exchange earnings.

Different Rates of Excise on Tobacco

*947. SHRI A. K. KOTRASHETTI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are differential rates of excise duty on tobacco used in bidi manufacturing;

(b) if so, what are the rates applicable in Karnataka; and

(c) whether such differential rates have led to malpractices in bidi industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

Financial Assistance to consultancy Firms engaged in Exports

*948. SHRI NIHAR LASKAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to give financial assistance to the consultancy firms engaged in exports;

(b) if so, the extent to which grants will be given; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Code for Grants-in-aid for export efforts from the Marketing Development Fund has been recently amended to give financial assistance to consultancy firms.