

(c) the number of factories closed and the number of persons rendered unemployed;

(d) the annual foreign exchange earned by this industry; and

(e) the steps taken to save this industry from its present crisis?

The Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs (Shri F. A. Ahmed): (a) to (c). Due to the higher prices of raw cashew on account of devaluation, Credit squeeze and increase in Industrial Wages the Cashew Industry is experiencing difficulty and as a result thereof 40 factories have closed down rendering 20,000 workers unemployed. Competition from factories which have been newly set up in East Africa is also increasing.

(d) The annual foreign exchange earned by this industry on pre-devaluation level is about Rs. 31 crores.

(e) Government helps the cashew industry by way of implementing schemes for providing packing materials; like tin-plates, box strappings, kraft liners etc. Government also provides drawback of duties on cashew kernels exported at the following rates:—

- (i) Tin containers of 25 lbs. capacity containing cashew kernels for which CO<sub>2</sub> is used for preservation—Rs. 422 per 1000 tins of 12.34 Kg. gross wt. (wt. of tin container 1 Kg).
- (ii) Box strappings—Rs. 2.50 per 100 cases.
- (iii) Wire nails—Re. 0.12 per 100 cases.

Import of raw nuts are freely allowed under the Open General Licence.

The Government have already set up a Development Council for cashewnut which looks after the aspects of production and marketing cashewnuts. The function of this Council, it is hoped, would help to increase production and supply more raw materials to the industry.

#### Prices of Vehicles

\*706. Shri A. B. Vajpayee:  
Shri Kanwar Lal Gupta:

Will the Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to lift price controls on light commercial vehicles;

(b) if so, the types of vehicles included in this category;

(c) whether under this new set-up, the manufacturers will not be required to seek prior permission of Government for raising the prices of vehicles; and

(d) the reasons for taking such a decision and for giving too much laxity to the manufacturers to push up the prices?

The Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs (Shri F. A. Ahmed): (a) to (c). Government have lifted the informal price control on light commercial vehicles (below 3 ton capacity) with effect from 22nd May, 1967, and the following types of vehicles are included in this category:

1. Dodge/Fargo  
1 ton truck.
2. Standard  
1 ton truck
3. Tempo Hanseat  
3-wheeler (3/4 ton)
4. Tempo Viking  
4-wheeler (900 Kg.)
5. Jeep trucks  
(3/4 ton).

The manufacturers of these vehicles are not hereafter required to seek the permission of Government to revise the prices of the vehicles.

(d) There are, at present, four units manufacturing light commercial vehicles. Their combined production is adequate to meet the de-

mand for these types of vehicles. As there is now no imbalance between supply and demand and a fair measure of competition has been introduced in this field, it is no longer considered necessary to continue price control over these types of vehicles. Government have no reason to apprehend that the manufacturers will push up prices in an unreasonable manner following the lifting of the informal price control on light commercial vehicles. However, the position will be kept under close and constant watch and reviewed after a year.

**Export of Iron Ore to Japan**

\*706. Shri M. S. Murti: Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of iron ore to be exported to Japan from the various ports in India, port-wise, as per the agreement entered into with that country;

(b) whether any further agreement in addition to the previous agreement has been entered into shortly;

(c) if so, the quantity to be covered by that agreement; and

(d) the names of the ports through which this additional quantity is proposed to be exported?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) and (b). A statement showing the quantity of iron ore programmed for export to Japan from various ports during 1967-68 is placed on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT**

Ports	Qty. in '000 tonnes
Calcutta	670
Haldia	100
Paradeep	600
Vizagapatnam	2810
Kakinada	200
Madras	1285
Cuddalore	135
Belikeri	100
Redi	120
<b>Total</b>	<b>6020</b>

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

**Export of Bananas**

\*707. Shri M. Meghachandra:  
Shri Dhireswar Kalita:  
Shri Eswara Reddy:  
Shri Vasudevan Nair:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have explored the possibility of increasing the export of bananas and if so, the steps being taken to step up the export of bananas;

(b) the total quantity and value of bananas exported in 1966;

(c) whether there is any scheme to develop banana plantation in the country and if so, the main features thereof; and

(d) the total amount to be spent by the Centre in this respect?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) to (d). Export of bananas to Persian Gulf countries are being increased year by year and a new market in the USSR is being developed. Export of bananas to Italy, Japan and other countries is being negotiated. In 1966, 12,270 tonnes valued at approximately Rs. 61 lakhs. An additional area of 35,130 acres is proposed to be brought under banana cultivation during the Fourth Plan. In order to develop production of banana and other fresh fruits for exports from the Southern States, a Corporation, named Banana and Fruit Development Corporation, Madras, has been set up by the State Governments of Madras, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, and Mysore.

These schemes, which will cover most of the fruit crops, including bananas, will be implemented by the State Governments under normal pattern of assistance for the Fourth Plan, and as such, it is not possible to indicate the amount to be spent by the Centre on banana development alone.