

(b) to (d). Does not arise.

Commission on Government Debt

4470. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Commission on Government debt cost RBI dear' appeared in the Economic Times dated August 4, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). In March, 1995, the Reserve Bank of India announced a scheme of Primary Dealers in Government securities who would be assigned the task of developing the secondary market in Government securities. With a view to providing some support to Primary Dealers, effective July 10, 1996, Reserve Bank of India announced payment of commission on purchases (including the underwriting commitment) of Primary Dealers of Government securities through subscriptions in all floatations in the Primary market. The cost towards payment of commission is entirely borne by the Reserve Bank. The Reserve Bank has undertaken the provision of commission as part of the cost of developing the market in Government securities.

[Translation]

Incentives to States for Export

4471. SHRI O.P. JINDAL:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have fixed any export target by the turn of the century;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government proposes to provide any financial assistance to the State Government for promoting the export;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the manner in which the Government propose to involve the State Governments in export promotion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b). A target has been fixed for export growth of around 18-20% per annum for the current financial year and 20% per annum for the Ninth Plan period, 1997-2002, in US Dollars terms.

(c) to (e). A Scheme was launched in 1993-94 under which 18 Export Promotion Industrial Parks (EPIP) have been approved for location in 18 States as industrial enclaves, organised chiefly for export production. Of the infrastructural cost of these Parks, 75% upto a limit of Rs. 10 crores is to be met by the Central Government. So far an amount of Rs. 73.26 Crores has been released to the State Governments towards implementation of these Parks. The Scheme envisages the establishment initially of one EPIP in each State.

During 1996-97 the Government has launched the 'Crucial Balancing Investment Scheme' which envisages balancing capital investments for relieving bottlenecks in infrastructure for export production and conveyance. Proposals identified for assistance under the Scheme including those of State Governments are to be financed by the Ministry of Commerce out of the special funds earmarked for the purpose. A sum of Rs. 25 crores has been earmarked for 1996-97 for the purpose.

(f) The Centre is seeking the participation of States in the provision of infrastructure, input support, reliefs from imposts, removal of constraints etc. in expanding exports. States are also consulted in matters of specific concern to them. In each State one agency has been recognised as an Export House in relaxation of the criterion. State Governments have appointed Nodal Officers (Niryat Bandhus) for export promotion.

[English]

Simplification of Exim Policy

4472. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have further simplified the Export and Import (Exim) Policy and effected major changes especially in diamonds, gems and jewellery export promotion schemes to boost the export; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b). Simplification of the Export & Import Policy is a continuous process which is reviewed from time to time, based on, inter-