

(c) the extent of reduction made during the last three years; and

(d) the names of the programmes for which the said assistance has been reduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the existing instructions, where there is a shortfall in expenditure on Minimum Needs Programme outlays, a proportionate cut in Central assistance is made.

(c) On account of shortfall in expenditure on Minimum Needs Programmes against their approved outlays of the State's Annual Plans, the amounts of Central assistance to Uttar Pradesh reduced during the last three years are as follows:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Amount (Rs, In lakhs)</i>
1989-90	29.39
1990-91	127.54
1991-92	43.43

(d) The reduction in Central assistance to Uttar Pradesh in 1989-90 was on account of shortfall in departmental expenditure on Minimum Needs Programme for adult education, and medical and public health against their approved outlays for 1988-89; the reduction in 1990-91 was on account of shortfall in departmental expenditure on Minimum Needs Programme for civil supplies and nutrition against their approved outlay for 1989-90, and the reduction in 1991-92 was on account of shortfall in departmental expenditure on MNP scheme for adult education against its approved outlay for 199-91.

Exemption Limit for Goods Produced by Small Scale Industries

4907. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the limit for exemption for the goods produced by the small scale industries;

(b) the time since when this present exemption of excise limit of small scale industries is in force;

(c) whether the Government propose to enhance those limits in view of the continuous devaluation of rupee for the last several years;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Notification No. 175/86 -CE dated 1.3.86 as amended from time to time provides the following exemptions to specific commodities stipulated therein:-

(i) full exemption for the first clearances upto a value of Rs. 20 lakhs per year when the goods manufactured fall under one chapter of the Central excise Tariff and upto a value of Rs. 30 lakhs per year when the goods manufactured fall under more than one chapter of the said Tariff; and

(ii) In respect of clearances beyond Rs. 20/30 lakhs and upto Rs. 75 lakhs per year, the duty is 10 percentage points less than the normal effective rate subject to a minimum duty of 5% ad valorem.

The exemption is available only to the manufacturer whose total value of clearances in a year is more than Rs. 2 crores. One of the conditions for availing of the concession is that the factory should be registered as a small scale industry with certain exemptions. Besides the aforementioned general exemption, there are certain specific exemption schemes for commodities such as cosmetics, air conditioning and

(b) The limits of Rs. 20 lakhs for goods of one chapter has been in force from 1.4.90. The limit of Rs. 2 crores is in force since 27.4.89. The limits of Rs. 30 lakhs of goods of more than one chapter is in force from 1.4.89. The limit of Rs. 75 lakhs is in force since 2.4.86.

(c) to (e). There is no proposal under consideration at present to enhance the aforementioned exemption limits as it is considered to be adequate to serve the interest of genuine small scale sector.

Damage to Cardamom Cultivation due to Drought In Kerala

4908. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the drought in Kerala during this year has seriously damaged cardamom cultivation in the State;

(b) if so, the estimated value of loss suffered;

(c) whether this is likely to affect the production and export during next year; and

(d) if so, the steps the Government propose to take in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The estimated value of the crop loss is Rs. 30.25 crores.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Under the existing scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture for financing relief expenditure, an amount of Rs. 31.00 crores

has been allocated to State Government of Kerala with central contribution of Rs. 23.25 crores to be released in 4 equal quarterly instalments. State Governments are required to meet expenditure on Relief measures in the wake of natural calamities out of the funds available under the Calamity relief Fund (CRF). A State level Committee headed by Chief Secretary of the State is fully empowered to decide on all matters relating to relief operations including norms of assistance. Central Government intervenes only in the case of calamity of such dimension and severity which needs handling at the National level and then provides additional Central assistance.

However, in order to augment the resources of the State Government towards relief measures, third instalment of the Central share of CRF amounting to Rs. 5.81 crores has been released in advance to the Government of Kerala in addition to the two quarterly shares of Rs. 11.62 crores already released.

Assistance to Sick Units

4909. DR. K.D. JESWANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sick industrial units getting assistance from the National Banks; and

(b) the steps being taken to promote these sick units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that as on 30.9.90 (the latest date for which such information is available) 69539 sick or weak industrial units were extended financial assistance by the nationalised banks.

(b) RBI have issued detailed guidelines