

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has requested the Union Government to provide loan on priority basis to the persons engaged in fishery work to create more opportunities of employment and to boost fishery work as is being given to the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHADRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). Government have not received any request from Government of Madhya Pradesh to provide loan on priority basis to the persons engaged in fishery work. Commercial Banks, however, provide short-term loans as well as medium and long term loans to farmers for development of fisheries in all its aspects i.e. from fish catching to stage of export, financing of equipment necessary for deep sea fishing, rehabilitation of tanks (fresh water fishing), fish breeding, etc.

[English]

Export of Ornaments by Neighbouring Countries

4431. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some neighbouring countries have decontrolled the export of ornaments; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the impact thereof on Indian markets?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and

(b). On the basis of information obtained from some of our neighbouring countries, it is observed that except for Nepal which lifted the minimum value addition requirements for export of ornaments in July, 1993, none of the other countries has instituted major policy changes in the recent past for the export of ornaments.

Purchase of VFC Tobacco From Outside the Auction Platforms

4432. SHRI V. SOBHANA-DREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether same traders/ companies have purchased VFC Tobacco outside the Auction Platforms;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Tobacco Board in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). No case has so far been registered by the Board during the ongoing, 1994 marketing season in Andhra Pradesh.

(c) Board has constituted vigilance squads to curb illegal transactions of tobacco.

Trade Unions

4433. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to ban trade unions based on caste, creed, community and religion;