

Export of Seafood/Marine Products

867. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL :

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHILIA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of marine products/seafoods exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last two years, till date, country-wise;

(b) whether some countries specially European Union Countries have complained regarding quality standards; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to improve the quality and boost the exports of sea-food/marine products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The total quantity of marine products/seafoods exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last two years, country/market-wise is as under :-

Country/Market	Qty : In M. tons	
	1994-95	1993-94
	1	2
Japan	Q : 53500	44985
	V: 1643.82	1185.67
U S A	Q : 32102	26152
	V: 490.23	306.17
U K	Q : 11202	9698
	V: 182.03	142.66
Italy	Q : 12495	12941
	V: 120.36	123.07

		1	2	3
Spain	Q :	13461	15751	
	V :	111.59	138.51	
Belgium	Q :	7057	6985	
	V :	86.33	73.57	
France	Q :	7095	7824	
	V :	54.99	45.40	
Netherlands	Q :	5196	6762	
	V :	59.71	67.63	
Greece	Q :	7539	6690	
	V :	47.51	35.59	
Portugal	Q :	3611	3322	
	V :	24.40	18.58	
Germany	Q :	1860	1411	
	V :	22.34	14.67	
Switzerland	Q :	788	138	
	V :	4.54	0.87	
Denmark	Q :	346	116	
	V :	3.72	1.16	
Ireland	Q :	266	137	
	V :	4.09	2.49	
Australia	Q :	5	-	
	V :	0.05	-	
Norway	Q :	296	83	
	V :	4.52	1.01	
Sweden	Q :	7	7	
	V :	0.12	0.08	

1	2	3
South East Asia	Q : 135567	87099
	V : 602.32	288.40
Others	Q : 14945	13867
	V : 112.60	78.15
Total	Q : 307338	243968
	V : 3575.27	2522.68

Small Investors

868. SHRI RAJESH KUMAR :

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the measures taken to safeguard the interest of small investors in company deposits upto Rs. 5000/- for repayment;

(b) whether any insurance scheme on the lines of the insurance for bank deposits is proposed to be devised with General Insurance Company;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) Section 58-A of the Companies Act, 1956 already provides for mandatory imprisonment, which may extend upto five years in the event of contravention of the relevant provisions of that Section or the Rules framed thereunder. The Companies Bill, 1993, introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 14.5.1993 provides that a company which has failed to repay any deposit or interest due thereon shall be prohibited from raising further deposits and, also, from making inter-corporate loans or investments, until the default is made good. It also provides for compulsory credit rating for Companies intending to raise deposits through advertisement.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Adequate safeguards already exist in prevailing Companies Act, 1956.

[Translation]

Tax Treaty Between India and Mauritius

869. SHRI KESRI LAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to review the tax treaty between India and Mauritius; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

(b) Yes, Sir. There have been occasional cases of contamination detected and reported in seafood consignments from India by countries of the European Union, amongst others.

(c) The Government is committed to maintenance of adequate quality standards for boosting the exports of seafood/marine products to the various markets. Some of the steps taken by the Government/MPEDA are as follow :-

i) The Government has notified the Export Inspection Agency (EIA) as the authorised agency to conduct inspection and certification of products and facilities relating to marine products vide Notification No. So. 729 (E) issued on 21.8.95.

ii) The processing plants are being surveyed by a panel from EIA, MPEDA and representatives of trade for assessing their conformity with EU standards with the objective of pointing out deficiencies and requirements of upgradation, EIA and MPEDA also help the companies to take up preventive measures in general and at the time to rejections.

iii) Processing plants are encouraged to set up their own pre-processing units by subsidising the cost. The pre-processing centres on the other hand are also being assisted to upgrade the facilities. MPEDA is implementing a scheme to subsidise the cost in setting up attached Quality Control laboratories, by seafood processing factories.

iv) Extension programmes are organised for educating the fishermen and the fish handlers on the hygienic handling of fish. Training programmes, Seminars and workshops are also organised by MPEDA from time to time for exporters, technologists, fish handlers and fishermen etc. on quality aspects.