

sideration of the Reserve Bank in consultation with the Government of India. The question of making a reference to the MRTTP Commission under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act does not arise.

**Dilution of FERA regulations for companies engaged in export business**

1574. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government want dilution of FERA Regulations for companies engaged in export business;

(b) if so, what are details of such new proposals; and

(c) which companies are likely to get benefit out of such dilution?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) No Sir.

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

**Penalty imposed on M/s Mohan Meakin Breweries for violation of Central Excise Law**

1575. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Board of Excise and Customs have decided an appeal against Collector's order imposing penalty and demanding duty on M/s Mohan Meakin Breweries for violation of Central Excise Law; and

(b) if so, what is the decision and what steps are being taken to recover the dues of huge amounts?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) Not yet, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Release of cotton export quota**

1576. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) when was the cotton export quota actually released this year;

(b) is it true that the release was delayed;

(c) if so, what were the reasons and dates of normal time and this year;

(d) are Government aware that farmers in Gujarat, Andhra, Punjab, Haryana, Karnataka were forced to make distress sales of cotton because of delay;

(e) is it true that he announced two lakh bales of cotton export quota at Madras on 23rd March and Governor's adviser announcement same day about one lakh bales quota allotted to Gujarat but no quota released even after one month; and

(f) who were responsible for this delay and what steps were taken to punish them?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Quotas for export of Staple cotton during the cotton year 1979-80 were released as under:

Date of release	Quantity in bales
20-3-1979	50,000
22-4-1980	50,000
20-3-1979	50,000
6-6-1980	3,50,000
Total	5,00,000

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Do not arise.

(d) This Ministry has no information.

(e) Yes, Sir. Commerce Minister had announced release of 2 lakh