

1995 to April, 1996 (latest month for which data is available) was 11.0%.

#### Infrastructure Development Bank

3520. SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up some infrastructure-development banks to finance construction of roads and highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which those banks are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir. In the budget speech for 1996-97, it has been proposed to establish an Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IDFC).

(b) and (c) As a follow up of the budget announcement, a Working Group under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Banking) has been constituted by the Reserve Bank of India to work out the modalities for setting up of the IDFC. Pending submission of the report and its acceptance, it is not possible to spell out the time by which IDFC would be set up.

[Translation]

#### Export of Agri-Products from Bihar

3521. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALAIS PAPU YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the export potential of agricultural products of Bihar and world market for it has been explored;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c) The major agricultural commodities exported from the country at present are wheat, rice, oilmeals, sugar, tobacco, fruits and vegetables which are produced in Bihar also. The USA, Canada, France, the UK, Russia, Japan, Indonesia, Singapore and countries in the Middle East and North Africa are the principal markets for these products. South Africa, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan have been identified as possible new destinations.

The steps taken to exploit these markets and boost

export of agricultural products include simplification of inspection on selected items, provisions of concessional credit, product development to meet international needs, extension of benefits available under the scheme of EOUs/EPZs to agriculture sector and exporters for improved packaging, strengthening of quality control, promoting export of identified products through brand promotion campaigns, arranging buyer-seller meets and participation in international fairs/exhibitions.

#### Export of Marine Products

3522. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY  
SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of fish, dry-fish and fish meals exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of last three years;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to boost the export of marine product and to set-up factories for storage of fish and fish-meals in the country particularly in Southern Gujarat and Saurashtra itself; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The total quantity of fish, dry-fish and fish meals exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of last three years has been as under :

Q : Quantity in MT

V : Value in Rs. Crores

Item	1993-94	1994-95	995-96
Fish	Q : 94022 V : 296.00	122529 446.57	100093 372.26
Dry Fish	Q : 2624 V : 16.72	6086 24.16	7340 44.08
Fish Meal	Q : - V : -	- -	76 0.21

(Source : MPEDA)

(b) and (c) The Government has been implementing a number of schemes for boosting export of marine