

- (i) 5019.245 M.T. Ivory Coast origin from West Africa @ US \$ 700/MT (i.e. Rs. 25,630/- M.T.)
- (ii) 7527.684 M.T., Guinea Bisu, Origin from West Africa @ US \$ 975/- MT (i.e. Rs. 38145/- M.T.)

\* Figures in respect of (a) are Provisional and the sources is DGCI&S, Calcutta.

\*\* Source for (b) is Cashew Export promotion Council, Cochin & Source for (c) and (d) is Kerala State Cashew Development Corporation Ltd.

- Improvement in quality of iodised salt;
- Improvement in quality monitoring mechanism at production sources;
- Creating awareness on consequences of iodine deficiency disorders and benefit of consumption of iodised salt.

[*English*]

#### **Strike by Custom Agents Employees**

5522. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the custom agents employees in Bombay went on strike in June 1998 for one week;
- (b) if so, the demands of the workers and the impact of the strike on the operation of the Bombay ports; and
- (c) the manner in which the strike was finally settled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir, the Customs House Agents' employees in Mumbai were on strike from 12/6/98 to 18/6/98 raising some demands regarding their service condition with their employers, as a result of which the work in ports and Customs clearance was affected. The strike was called off after the parties agreed to have the conciliation proceedings before Deputy Chief Commissioner (Labour) of the State Government.

#### **Disinvestment of Shares**

5523. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the price per share realised in all disinvestments in central public sector enterprises so far;
- (b) the total number of shares disinvested in each PSU and the total amount realised; and
- (c) the number of proceeds of disinvestment have been utilised/set apart to fund other PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) A statement is annexed.

(c) The entire proceeds of disinvestment so far has been credited to the Consolidated Fund of India. The Government has also decided that 10% of the revenue generated through Disinvestment may be kept earmarked for an investment Fund which is to be used for strengthening of Public Sector Enterprises.

[*Translation*]

#### **Funds Received from UNICEF for Salt**

5521. SHRI CHANDRASEKHAR SAHU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the total amount received so far from the UNICEF by the Department of Salt;
- (b) the names of items on which this amount has been spent; and
- (c) the fields in which achievements have been made by utilising the said amount?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) Salt Department received Rs. 67,73,292/- from UNICEF during the period from 1993-94 to 1997-98 under the Government of India — UNICEF Work Plan on Universal Salt Iodisation.

(b) This amount has been spent on various activities/programmes covered under the following broad categories:-

- Information, Education and Communication activities;
- National/Regional/State Level meetings, seminars and workshops;
- Strengthening of quality monitoring system at production sources;
- Assistance to small salt producers by way of free supply of iodisation plants, crushers and iodising chemical (potassium iodate);
- Commissioning of studies/situation analysis on the availability, quality and prices of iodised salt in the selected States;

(c) Achievements have been made in following field by utilising the amount received from UNICEF:

- Increase in iodisation capacity and production of iodised salt;
- Increase in demand of iodised salt;