

Crisis in Air Conditioner and Refrigerator Manufacturing Units

4984. PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that small scale units manufacturing air conditioners and refrigerators are on the verge of closure because of discrimination in the matter of excise duty exemption limit; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to help these small units who are facing acute crisis ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). Different exemption schemes have been prescribed for the small scale sector in different areas of industrial production taking into account various factors, such as, the applicable rate of excise duty, the quantum of exemption available for the unit, position of the organised sector, etc. The scheme of excise duty relief applicable to small scale units manufacturing refrigerating and air-conditioning appliances and parts thereof cannot be regarded as discriminatory in nature. There are no reports of closure of small scale units manufacturing refrigerators and airconditioners as a result of the present scheme of excise duty concession to the small scale units. There is no proposal at present to revise the existing scheme.

Proposal to set up Coir Export Promotion Council

4985. SHRI T. BASHEER : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up Coir Export Promotion Council;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) No Sir,

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Under the Coir Industry Act 1953, the Coir Board has *inter-alia* been entrusted with export promotion functions for coir items.

Declaration of Hyderabad as a Free Port

4986. SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) total number of free airports in the country;

(b) whether Hyderabad airport is also a free port;

(c) if not, whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to declare Hyderabad as a free port; and

(d) if so, when ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) There are no such airports in the country.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Statement correcting Answer to Unstarred Question No. 693 dated 26-7-1985 Re : Allotment of Quotas and Licences for Garments transferred to Apparel Export Promotion Council

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : A typographical error in the figure indicated in reply to part (f) of the Question [*Annexure 'A' placed in Library. See No. LT 1438/85*], has been noticed. The correct reply to the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 693 is as given at Annexure 'B'.

ANNEXURE—'B'

**Allotment of Quotas and Licences
for Garments Transferred to Apparel
Export Promotion Council**

693. SHRI G. M BANATWALLA :
Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEX-
TILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the work relating to allotment of quotas and licences for garments have been transferred from the office of the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports to the Apparel Export Promotion Council, New Delhi;

(b) If so, since when;

(c) the reasons for the aforesaid transfer of the work and power;

(d) whether Government appreciates the inadvisable nature of such transfer to a private agency and if so, whether the power will be reassumed by the Chief Controller;

(e) whether the said Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) also levies fines and penalties on garment exporters;

(f) if so, the amount so collected since the power has been delegated to the AEPC; and

(g) whether the amount collected belongs to Government of the AEPC ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEX-
TILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR
SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. This work has
been with AEPC since the inception of
AEPC.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

(e) No, Sir. The forfeiture of EMDs/
BGs by AEPC in terms of Public Notices
issued by the Government is not a penalty
but merely in the nature of action taken
for non-performance of contractual obli-
gation on part of exporters.

(f) According to available information,
as on 31-12-1984 AEPC had collected a
sum of Rs. 3,12,22,513/- on account
of forfeiture of EMDs/BGs.

(g) The amount is to be kept sepa-
rately by AEPC to be spent on export
promotion after obtaining Government's
approval.

12.00 Hrs.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE
(Rajapur) : I want to raise a very serious
matter. Please listen to our submission
because that is the submission of the
M Ps. On 21st of this month, 17 MPs
went to attend the funeral of late Longo-
wal.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : My information is
different.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :
You have misunderstood it. The press had
commented on that. They say that the
funeral was conspicuous by the absence of
MPs because of the discrimination shown
by the Government and the ruling party
on us, we could not be present.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I do not think
there was anything like that. I have got
the information.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :
Let the hon. Minister make a statement.
We were half an-hour late. Members of
the ruling party were allowed to reach
the funeral in time and only (Interruptions)
.....on technical grounds.

MR. SPEAKER : I must make it
clear because I was myself there.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :
You are not a member of the Congress
party. We are referring to the Congress
party.