

foreign assistance fully within the specified period; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c). The estimated unused foreign assistance on Government Account as on 31.3.90 works out to Rs. 45669 crores. Most of the External assistance is tied to specific projects and the disbursements are therefore linked to the project implementation schedule. The pace of actual implementation varies from project to project. However the loan amount not utilised during a particular financial year does not normally lapse and would be carried forward for utilization in the subsequent years. Government have taken a number of steps to accelerate the implementation of externally aided projects and the utilisation of external assistance. These include simplification of procedures for release of foreign exchange and tender evaluation. Monitoring of externally aided projects has also been intensified.

#### **Exploitation of Steel-Grade Limestone in Meghalaya**

368. SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Meghalaya has vast reserves of steel-grade limestone, a raw material currently being imported for the steel plants;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken for the exploitation of the limestone reserves in Meghalaya;

(c) whether any agreement has been reached with Bangladesh under which

Bangladesh could import a specific quantity of limestone for its cement factories and also to transfer in return the steel-grade variety of limestone to Calcutta by river transport for steel plants in India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BASAVARAJ PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has not been possible to exploit Meghalaya limestone for steel plants so far due to logistic consideration.

(c) and (d). No, Sir.

#### **Export of Rice, Wheat, Sugar**

369. SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY:

SHRI C.P. MUDALAGIRIYAPPA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to export large quantity of rice, wheat, sugar and other agricultural commodities to earn foreign exchange;

(b) if so, whether Government have worked out modalities for export of these commodities if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have also assessed the impact of price rise on the domestic consumers as a result of exports of these commodities, if so, the outcome thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDASPATEL):

(a) to (c). In view of the country's critical balance of payments position, Government