

and cashew during 1988-89; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI AR-ANGIL SHREEDHARAN): (a) and (b). The following were the export of cardamom, paper, ginger and cashew during the two years 1987-88 and 1988-89:

*Value : Rs. crores*

<i>Year</i>	<i>Cardamom</i>	<i>Pepper</i>	<i>Ginger</i>	<i>Cashew</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
1987-88	3.40	240.58	4.89	326.86
1988-89	9.88	164.20	9.53	281.84

Exports of pepper in 1988-89 were lower because of lower production, negligible carry-over stocks and late arrivals of crop. Fall in exports of cashew during 1988-89 was due mainly to competition from Brazil where US business has invested in cashew with buy-back arrangements and competition from other cheaper nuts such as almonds and pistachios.

#### **Exports Targets**

8369. SHRI MANORANAN  
BHAKTA:  
SHRI ANBARASU ERA:  
SHRI P. NARSA REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the exports target set and the achievement there against during 1989-90; and

(b) the exports target fixed for 1990-91?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU):  
(a) The export target for 1989-90 was set at Rs. 28,025 crores. As against this target,

aggregate exports in the first eleven months i.e. April 1989-Feb. 1990 are provisionally estimated at Rs. 24,506 crores.

(b) Export target for 1990-91 has been fixed at Rs. 36,000 crores.

#### **Export of Footwear**

8370. SHRI MANORANJAN  
BHAKTA:  
SHRI ANBARASU ERA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Japan and Australia have relaxed curbs on import of footwear;

(b) if so, whether Indian Leather Industry has taken steps to increase export of footwear to these Countries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI AR-ANGIL SHREEDHARAN): (a) Imports of footwear into Japan and Australia are controlled through annual global quotes and

duties. There has been no overall change in this respect.

(b) and (c). Market promotion measures abroad and product development efforts in India for Indian leather footwear to be competitive in world market in terms of price and quality have helped in increasing exports and these measures are proposed to be continued and intensified, wherever required.

[Translation]

### **Right of States to Impose Tax on Mineral Rights**

8371. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL:  
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments of Bihar and West Bengal are authorised to impose tax on mineral rights under article 277 of the Constitution;

(b) if so, whether other States have similar authority to impose this tax;

(c) if not the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government propose to give the right of imposing this tax to other States also in order to remove this anomaly?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Article 277 of the Constitution of India gives validity only to the taxes, fees, duties, cesses which were being levied lawfully by the Government of any State immediately before the commencement of

the Constitution. It does not authorise the State Governments to impose any such levies afresh.

State Governments derive such authority from the various Entries of the List-II (State List) of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution and this includes taxes on mineral rights subject to any limitation imposed by Parliament by law relating to mineral development.

### **Mining Plans**

8372. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL:  
Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the neo-literates and people belonging to weaker sections are sustaining their livelihood from small mines in the State of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether Government propose to exempt such persons from the provisions of submitting mining plans; and

(c) whether Union Government also propose to make a provision in the rules so that mining plan could be submitted after the mining lease has been approved by the State Government but before the conclusion of agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) No person can undertake mining operations in any area except under and in accordance with the terms and conditions of a mining lease granted under the relevant provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 framed there under. The main objects of this statute are to ensure proper regulation and development of minerals, systematic and scientific mining,