

(c) the time likely to be taken for final decision in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Export Potential of Export Processing Zones

1526. SHRI C. SRINIVASAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been made on the export potential of Export Processing Zones;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps contemplated by Government to stimulate the exports of these zones; and

(d) the total investment made on the setting up of these zones?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) and (b) The Indian Institute of Foreign Trade in its study on "Free Trade Zones" in selected developing countries has noted that exports from the six Export Processing Zones during 1988-89 was Rs. 516 crores i.e. about 2.6% of our total exports. The Study has stated that the zones have a positive role to play in expanding net foreign exchange earnings from manufactured exports. To fully exploit their export potential, a number of suggestions have been made which, *inter-alia*, include improvement of infrastructure, streamlining of procedures, setting up of a national authority for the zones and a more liberal incentive package.

(c) Steps have been taken to revamp the Scheme of Export Processing Zones with a view to improve the incentives and to simplify the rules and procedures to further stimulate exports from these zones.

(d) The total investment made by Government on the setting up of the zones since inception is Rs. 99.20 crores.

Aid by Consciousness International Foundation

1527. SHRI DHARMESH PRASAD VARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Consciousness International Foundation has included India in their impressive plan to aid the poor and the destitute throughout the world;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent the poor and the destitute persons will be benefitted by their plan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) No information on this subject is available with the Ministry of Finance.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Financial aid to Small Rubber Growers

1528. SHRI PALAI K.M. MATHEW: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase the financial aid to small rubber growers for the first seven years of cultivation;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by what time the scheme is likely to be implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) to (c) The Rubber Board has proposed for the enhancement of subsidy for the benefit of all rubber growers in the 8th Plan proposals submitted by them. The details of assistance proposed to be granted are pending finalisation of the 8th Plan outlays.