

and weavers, if the assets are damaged or have become unserviceable, it will be treated as loss of assets and would be eligible for relief

(b) and (c) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) have reported that they have not received any complaint regarding the malpractice being indulged in by banks in implementing Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief Scheme.

Demand of Coffee Growers

3853. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand to withdraw purchase tax on coffee and write off small loans to coffee growers; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SHREEDHARAN): (a) and (b) Government has been receiving representations for writing off a small loan and abolition/rationalisation of purchase tax on coffee. The Government has already rescheduled repayment of loan to the coffee growers to mitigate their problems. As regards purchase tax, the matter has been taken up with the State Government of Karnataka which maintains its rate of purchase tax at 13%, for bringing the same on par with the purchase tax in other major coffee growing States.

Export Target for Eighth Plan

3854. SHRI NAKUL NAYAK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of foreign exchange earned from exports during the Seventh Plan period.

(b) the efforts proposed to be made to increase exports during the Eighth Plan period; and

(c) the target set therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SHREEDHARAN): (a) The foreign exchange earned from exports during the Seventh Plan period amounted to Rs. 87004 crores.

(b) The broad approach of the Government is towards making exports commercially viable through upgrading industrial efficiency, ensuring supply of raw materials at competitive prices, strengthening the infrastructure and simplifying procedures.

(c) Work on Eighth Plan is in progress and as of now no specific target has been fixed for overall export for the Eighth Plan period.

Establishment of Multinational Companies

3855. SHRI GANGA CHARAN LODHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are giving more importance for establishing the multinational companies in India; and

(b) the total number of multinational companies established in India as yet?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b) There is no clear universally accepted definition of the term "multinational company". Our investment policy is guided by our national interest. Foreign investment will continue to be allowed for purposes of modernization, meeting critical gaps in technology and production and for boosting exports.