

Soviet Helicopters for India

*637. SHRI YAJNA DATT

SHARMA:

SHRI HARDAYAL DEVGUN:

SHRI JAI SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Soviet team came to India in May, 1969 to sell their latest M-8 helicopters;

(b) whether any demonstration trials of these helicopters were also given by the Soviet team;

(c) whether any contract for the supply of these helicopters has been signed with the Soviet team; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SAWARAN SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Russian team brought a Mi-8 helicopter to India recently for evaluation trials under Indian conditions. The trials were held at two places.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Demand for Cashewnuts in Western Countries

*638. SHRI S. S. KOTHARI: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a large demand for cashewnuts in Western countries;

(b) if so, the steps which Government are taking to promote their exports; and

(c) whether Government propose to encourage their sale in packets after processing so as to obtain good prices?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (SHRI CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The steps taken to promote exports are as follows:—

(i) Raw cashewnuts are allowed to be imported under Open General Licence.

(ii) Imports of packing materials are permitted at 2 per cent of the F.O.B. value of export of cashewnuts.

(iii) Production of raw cashewnuts in India is being stepped up.

(iv) Quality control is imposed on exports of cashewnuts.

(v) The Cashew Export Promotion Council, Ernakulam, sponsored by the Government is carrying out a number of export promotion measures like market surveys, dissemination of market information, publicity and propaganda abroad through advertisement, documentary film, journals, booklets, pamphlets, participation in exhibitions, staging special shows in departmental stores, distribution of cashewnuts in certain Air India flights, sending trade delegations etc.

(c) The Council's foreign office in Brussels has also undertaken various sales promotion measures on the above lines.

Manufacture of Electronic Computers in India

*639. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a major international computer manufacturing concern has made an offer to set up a plant in India to manufacture electronic computers;

(b) if so, the terms offered by the concern; and

(c) whether Government have accepted the offer?