

12. 00 hrs.

## SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

## Export of Oil Seeds

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S.N.Q. } Shri Jashvant Mehta:  
 No. 7. } Shri Solanki:  
 } Shri Himmatsinhji:  
 } Shri Yashpal Singh:  
 } Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:  
 } Shri D. C. Sharma:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that permits have been issued to certain shippers in India recently for export of oilseeds to foreign countries;

(b) whether it is a fact that regular trade notice was not issued;

(c) whether it has come to the notice of Government that due to the export of oilseeds to foreign countries there has been an abnormal rise in the price of oilseeds in India; and

(d) if so, what steps Government have taken to curb the rise in prices of oilseeds?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah):** (a) to (d). Exports of groundnut seeds, groundnut oil and other edible oils are totally banned.

No permits have been issued to any shippers or exporters for export of HPS (Hand Picked Selected) groundnut kernels. From the annual quota of 50,000 tons of HPS groundnut kernels for 1964, 35,000 tons were already exported in the earlier part of this year and the balance quota of 15,000 tons of HPS kernel as usual has been allowed to be exported in small lots of 100 tons per shipper per ship on presentation of goods to the custom and port authorities. Therefore, no question of issuing any licence or any permit to anybody arises. As the House is aware, these HPS kernels fetch very high foreign exchange at the rate of £90 to £110 per ton that is Rs. 1200 to Rs. 1300 per ton as compared to ordinary

groundnut seeds whose price is £35 to £40 per ton that is, Rs. 600 to Rs. 700 per ton less than the HPS groundnut kernel prices. In our dire foreign exchange shortage, the insignificant exports of 15,000 tons of HPS groundnut kernel out of an estimated crop of 30 to 35 lakh tons of groundnut seeds will enable us to earn Rs. 1.5 to Rs. 2 crores of valuable foreign exchange.

In all such exports, no formal trade notice is generally issued for export of any commodity whatsoever unless the importing country desires that licensing may be done by us as in case of U. K. and U.S.A. licensing of textiles. In all other cases, shippers are informed on enquiry and as such there is no procedure for trade notice or any permit or any licence for this purpose for this commodity. Goods are allowed to be shipped on presentation of goods at the ports as per General Licensing Instructions issued by the C.C.I. & E.

These exports have no relation to internal prices which are continuously rising due to numerous factors. The internal prices have been rising for many commodities, of which most of them are not exported at all. Also prices of groundnut seeds were rising even before the small balance quantity of HPS Kernels was allowed to be exported. Hardly any exports of HPS groundnut kernel have yet taken place and yet the internal prices are going up due to internal demand and supply and other reasons.

Regarding the measures to check and control the prices of oilseeds and other commodities several measures have been taken, like import of 75,000 tons of soyabean oil and cottonseeds oil from the U.S.A. under PL 480 of which 30,000 tons are expected to reach India very soon. The ban on export of all edible oils continues. Also intensive steps have been taken to increase the production and area under cultivation of rape and mustard seeds in addition to groundnut seeds. Perhaps the production of rape and mustard seeds this year would be a record crop as far as the

earlier estimates of crop are concerned, over and above the favourable increased estimated production of groundnut seeds. The Forward Markets Commission has prescribed ceilings on contracts in oilseeds and oils which are having some restraining influence on the spot prices. Several fiscal measures and monetary controls have been imposed to control general prices of all commodities including oilseeds.

The need to promote exports and earn valuable foreign exchange to sustain and accelerate national development is fully appreciated by the House and the country and it is hoped that any minor hardship, real or psychological on this account for temporary periods will be cheerfully borne, approved and supported by all.

**Shri Solanki:** I would like to know whether, as soon as the ban on export was imposed, the prices of oilseeds and cottonseeds had gone up.

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** If he sees the price-chart, he will see that the prices went up not only when the ban was removed but even when the ban was removed. Prices have no relation to the small quantity of export, as I have mentioned.

**Shri Ranga:** It is only due to inflation.

**Shri Solanki:** May I know whether old stocks, which are lying frozen by the Gujarat Government, have been brought into the market?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** It has no relation to the State Government's ban because as long as the local government does not allow the oilseeds to move out, they cannot be exported at all. Therefore, the HPS kernel would not at all move out of Gujarat.

**Shri Solanki:** Several stocks have been frozen in the Gujarat State.

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** Freezing does not arise. There is no cause of action, like freezing of stocks which the hon.

Member has mentioned, as far as the balance quantity of export of 15,000 tons of kernels is concerned.

**श्री यशपाल सिंह :** पंजाब और उत्तर प्रदेश की सरजमीन में डालडा और कोटोजेम माफिक नहीं आता है और सब से यादा हमारे खेतों में आयल सीड्स पैदा होते हैं। सरकार ने क्या कोई ऐसा उपाय सोचा है कि आयल सीडज हमारे यहां पैदा करके सीधे गुजरात और बंगाल में चले जाया करें और हम डालडा और कोटोजेम की मुसीबत से बचे रहें ?

**श्री मनुभाई शाह :** डालडा मजबूरी से किसी को खिलाया नहीं जाता है। जिनको डालडा पसन्द आता है वे डालडा खाते हैं, जिनको तेल पसन्द है वे तेल खाते हैं और जिनको घी पसन्द है वे घी खाते हैं।

**श्री कपूर सिंह :** हमें घी चाहिये।

**Shri Himmatsinhji:** The hon. Minister said that there was a bumper crop. I want to know whether a sufficient crop of oilseeds would be available till the end of next year for home consumption.

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** It is our estimate, looking to the last several years' experience and the good crop of oilseeds of all types in the current year plus the estimated rapeseed and mustardseed as also the import of soya bean oil of the order of 75,000 tons and various measures which I have mentioned, that we should have near-about self-sufficient requirements of oilseeds and oils.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** Considering that in spite of acute shortages inside the country some essential commodities, like rice and sugar, have been exported in the past and are being exported also perhaps in the present and now comes some kind or variety of oilseeds, what is the paramount consideration before the Government in this matter—whether it is the satisfaction of the primary needs of the poor and half-starved Indian

consumer or the acquisition of foreign exchange?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** The balance of advantages, namely, that the nation has to earn foreign exchange as well as see that the consumer's primary needs are met. Continuously this balance has to be exercised in favour of both the aspects.

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** Every State has its own cooking medium, if I may use that expression, like, vanaspati, Koto-gem, mustard oil, groundnut oil and other things. Now, the Government is importing so many thousand tons of soyabean oil. May I know if the Government has assessed the habits of some State or different States whether they would be prepared to use soyabean oil and, if they are not prepared to use soyabean oil, how it would be dumped upon those people?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** There is no dumping involved at all. By years of experience and utilisation of soya bean oil in our own country in the manufacture of vanaspati, we have found it to be a very nutritive oil for this purpose. It is not the first time that we are importing it. The House can rest assured that all these factors plus the habits of the people and the percentage of the nutritive element in different oils have been fully taken into account.

**Shri Dinen Bhattacharya:** May I know whether it is in the knowledge of the Ministry that in West Bengal mustard oil has totally disappeared and the West Bengal Government has asked for the supply of sufficient quantity of mustardseed from the Centre? Has the Government supplied it up till now?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** The Centre does not possess any mustardseed. But certainly we have made it more possible for the West Bengal Government. They wanted to import some mustardseed from Thailand, Laos and Cambodia. We made it possible for them. The Chief Minister also requested for some import of coconut

oil. We allowed that also. All possible help is being rendered.

**श्री अचल सिंह :** देश में जो ग्राहक सीड्स की खपत कम हो रही है उसको देखते हुए क्या यह जरूरी नहीं है कि अचल सीड्स का एक्सपोर्ट किया जाये।

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** इसका जवाब तो मंत्री महोदय ने दो दफ़े दे दिया।

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** The quantities of export depend upon the total needs and total availability.

**Shri Narendra Singh Mahida:** The hon. Minister just stated that all measures will be taken for meeting the shortfalls. What is the estimation of shortfalls for these oilseeds?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** So far as the shortfall over the previous year is concerned, the production this year at least is estimated to be higher than the last year. That is all I can say about that.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

##### Allotment of Scooters

**\*573. Shri R. G. Dubey:** Will the Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Officers in various Ministries and Departments of the Central Government working in Delhi and at outside stations who were allotted scooters from Government quota during the last three quarters of this year;

(b) whether any machinery has been devised by Government to check that these Officers use vehicles allotted to them from Government quota for bonafide purposes to help them in the efficient discharge of official duties and not indulge in *benami* sale or transfer or other misuse; and

(c) if so, the broad outlines thereof?

**The Minister of Heavy Engineering and Industry in the Ministry of Industry and Supply (Shri T. N. Singh):** (a) 1,847 Nos.