

(c) The reasons for losses include:-

- (a) uneconomic fare structure of DTC.
- (b) rising cost of labour and cost of inputs.
- (c) concessions given to students and weaker section of society through concessional passes.
- (d) heavy interest burden on loans advanced by Government.

(d) and (e). No decision has been taken to reduce the size of DTC fleet.

Export of Processed Edible Products

*363. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:
SHRI N.J. RATTHVA:

will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether fruits, vegetables and other edible items worth crores of rupees perish each year in the country due to lack of proper facilities;

(b) if so, the remedial measures proposed to be taken in this regard;

(c) whether the Government propose to formulate a comprehensive policy to increase export of processed edible products;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have also received suggestions from the Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the

reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES) AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE : (SHRI P. J. KURIEN):
(a) and (b). While no authentic information is available, it is estimated that fruits and vegetables valued at Rs.3000 crores are wasted every year due to inadequate post-harvest handling as well as absence of linkage of growers with the processors and fresh fruits and vegetables markets. National Horticulture Board is implementing various schemes to strengthen post-harvest infrastructure and reduce the post harvest losses.

(c) to (f). 'Processed Foods' have been identified as a thrust area for exports. Government has, in consultation with the processed foods industry, and keeping in view the suggestions received from the Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry, chalked out a strategy for export growth in this sector. The strategy basically includes; making our processed foods more price competitive through provisions of various inputs at reasonable prices, and through improved infra-structural support.

Import of Almond

364. SHRI DAUDAYAL JOSHI: will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the countries from which almonds have been imported during each of the last three years along with the quantity and rates thereof and the total amount of foreign exchange incurred thereon; and

(b) the steps taken during the above period to reduce the import of almonds and to increase its production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE