

(f) if not, the steps being taken by the Government to protect the interest of the tobacco growers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) (a) and (b). Government have received representations from tobacco growers in Andhra Pradesh opposing the proposal to enact legislation for discouraging use of tobacco products in the country

(c) and (d) The proposed legislation was discussed in a meeting convened by the Chairman, tobacco Board with representatives of manufacturers, exporters, farmers, some Board members and others, when it was resolved to recommend to Government, the need to set up an Expert Committee to study the impact of the proposed legislation and keep the Bill in abeyance till recommendations of this committee have been considered

(e) and (f) The recommendations made in this meeting as well as other representations received in this regard have been forwarded to the Ministry of Health for their consideration

Export of Wheat and Rice

*250 DR K V R CHOWDARY

SHRI NARAIN SINGH CHAUDHRY

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have signed any contract for the export of various varieties of wheat and rice during the current year,

(b) if so, the details thereof, country-wise,

(c) whether the Government have formulated any policy or fixed any target for the export of these items during the current year,

(d) if so, the details thereof,

(e) the comparative prices of these items in the domestic and the international markets,

(f) the total quantity of these items exported and foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years, and

(g) the steps being taken by the Government to boost the export of these items and provide incentives to the growers during the Eighth Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise

(c) and (d) Government has not fixed any target for the exports of wheat and rice in the current year. A ceiling of 3-lakh tonnes of durum wheat and 5 lakh tonnes of non-durum wheat has been released in 1994-95 without any stipulation of minimum export price. FCI has also been authorised to export non-durum wheat from the Central pool within the overall ceiling of 5 lakh tonnes. In addition, FCI has also been allowed to initially sell a quantity of upto 50,000 tonnes of wheat at the prices fixed for sale in the open market to the State Trading Corporation (STC), for exports. Rice is freely exportable without quantity restrictions

(e) The price of comparable varieties of wheat and rice in the country and in the international market in

October, 1994 were as under —

| | | Domestic Wholesale Prices October, 1994 | |
|-------|-------|--|--------------|
| | | In Rs /PMT | In US \$/PMT |
| Wheat | North | 3905 | 124 |
| | West | 4850 | 153 |
| | East | 5233 | 166 |
| | South | 6862 | 218 |
| Rice | North | 6994 | 222 |
| | West | 6849 | 217 |
| | East | 6720 | 192 |
| | South | 7296 | 232 |

| | | International Price October, 1994 | |
|-------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| | | In Rs /PMT | In US \$/ PMT |
| Wheat | (HRW 11% Protein USA) | 5135-5324 | 163-169 |
| Rice | (Thai Broken 10%) | 7277-7655 | 231-243 |

Source: Ministry of Food
US \$ = Rs 31.50

(f) The total quantity of rice and wheat exported and the value thereof during each of the last three years are as under —

| Year | (Quantity in MTS) | |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | Quantity | Value in Rs Lakhs |
| <i>Rice</i> | | |
| 1991-92 | 761380 | 75519 |
| 1992-93 | 562905 | 89799 |
| 1993-94 | 805540 | 128009 |
| <i>Wheat</i> | | |
| 1991-92 | 658250 | 15808 |
| 1992-93 | 36750 | 1021 |
| 1993-94 | 591 | 27 |

Source: DGCI&S Calcutta and APEDA

(g) Government has liberalised the policy for wheat and rice exports by removing stipulation of minimum export price and enhancing/abolishing quantitative ceilings. The new GATT Agreement is also likely to lead to the reduction of export subsidies and internal support measures and enhance competitiveness of Indian agricultural commodities. The consequent enlargement of the market will provide an incentive to growers by way of possibilities of higher realisation for their produce

[Translation]

Trade Deficit

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SHRI NAVAL KISHORE RAI.

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country's share in the total world exports has been declining during the current year;

(b) if so, the latest balance of ~~trade~~ position of our country particularly from April to September, 1994 in comparison with the corresponding period during the last three years,