

Joint Venture Projects in Saudi Arabia

4862. SHRI MORESHWAR SAVE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Saudi Arabia has sought assistance from India for setting up joint sector projects in that country;

(b) if so, the details of such projects; and

(c) the response of the Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (c). During the 3rd session of the Indo-Saudi Joint Commission for Economic and Technical Cooperation held at New Delhi on 13-14 November, 1991, possibilities of developing bilateral Cooperation in setting up projects in Saudi Arabia were discussed. The Saudi Arabian side indicated that such opportunities existed in industrial sectors like food processing industry, metal and fabrication industry, chemical industry, light engineering industry, textiles, leather goods, wood panels, packaging industry etc. The information provided by the Saudi Arabian delegation has been passed on to Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry, Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Engineering Export Promotion Council and Exim Bank for being disseminated to the Indian entrepreneurs.

[*Translation*]

Import of Sugar

4863. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value in foreign exchange of sugar imported during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the country has now become self dependent in the matter of sugar; and

(c) if not, the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Out of the last three financial years 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91, a quantity of 2,41,750 tonnes of sugar was imported during 1989-90 only at a CIF value of US \$ 125673070.

(b) and (c). Production of sugar during the sugar seasons 1989-90 & 1990-91, (October-September) was adequate to meet internal consumption without imports. During 1991-92, taking into account the carryover stocks at the beginning of the season and the estimated sugar production during the season, there would be adequate availability of sugar to meet the internal requirements.

Free Travelling Facilities to Journalists in D.T.C.

4864. SHRI SURAJBHANU SOLANKI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide free travelling-facility to accredited journalists in Delhi Transport Corporation buses;

(b) if so, by what time a decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The facility of concessional pass has already been extended to accredited journalists at the rate of Rs.70/- per pass per month. In view of the present critical financial position of DTC it will not be appropriate to burden it with any other concessions.

[English]

Re-fixation of pay of Re-employed officers in Armed Forces

4865. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the pay-scale which has been re-fixed now in respect of re-employed officers in the Armed Forces with a view to give them benefit of the integrated/ revised pay scale adopted for the Armed Forces w.e.f. January 1, 1986 in pursuance of the recommendations of the Fourth Central Pay Commission has actually resulted in recovery of large amount of money from each of the re-employed officer and order have been issued to effect the recovery of these amounts from the pensionary benefits of those officers; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to protect the interests of those officers from whom the recovery is being made now?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b). Government are aware of the problem and have issued instructions that subject to certain terms and conditions the recoveries need not be effected till various aspects of the matter are reviewed within 3 months.

Export of Jagree (GUR)

4866. SHRI UDAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Jagree (Gur) has been excluded from the list of the export items;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is a persistent demand from the farmers, Co-operative institutions and market committees of Sangh and Kolhapur districts for allowing the export of Jagree; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (d). Export of Jaggery is allowed subject to a ceiling of Minimum Export price. For 1991-92 the ceiling is 10,000 MT and present MEP is Rs. 8,000/ PMT. Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) issues ceiling slips on the basis of registration of contracts with it on 'first-come-first-served' basis. An individual exporter is allocated not more than 500 tonnes for export.

Setting up of Bank Note Press in Orissa

4867. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up another Bank Note Press in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) There is no proposal with the Government to set up a Bank Note Press in Orissa.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply (a) above.