

(f) if so, the standards proposed to be followed for determining optimal limits for export keeping in view needs of domestic consumers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): (a) The Government has no intention of adopting a strategy of export led growth. In selected products which have unutilised installed capacity or which have a high elasticity of supply, exports may lead to acceleration of domestic production.

(b) and (c). Export demand is one of the factors along with domestic demand, money supply and the total availability of an item which determines prices in the domestic market. The Government is aware that the export drive by the earlier Government has adversely affected the availability of certain essential commodities. The Government has therefore taken prompt measures and has either stopped or staggered their exports. Exports of products required for essential mass consumption are now regulated and constant review is kept so that the interests of domestic consumers are safeguarded.

Rise in the Prices of Vegetables

912. **SHRI D. D. DESAI:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that vegetable prices are going up due to inordinate export of raw vegetables including onions and potatoes; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): (a) and (b). Export of raw vegetables including potatoes and onions has not been inordinate as the total quantity exported during 1975-76 and April—December 1976 have been 1.50 lakh tonnes and 1.63 lakh tonnes respectively against an estimated production of 216 lakh tonnes. Exports of vegetables have been regulated with a view to ensure that the domestic supply and prices of these items are not adversely affected. Export of onions and potatoes has been stopped for the present.

Import of Cotton

913. **SHRI D. D. DESAI:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cotton Corporation of India is finding demand for imported cotton rather poor;

(b) if so, whether textile mills are being given further price preference in imported cotton; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to reconsider import of cotton and help local farmers fetch a better price?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government would always like to help the local farmers. The present imports had to be allowed in view of the shortage of cotton. The moment such shortage is over, to that extent, imports from outside will not be allowed.

Export of cotton garments to U.S.A. and U.S.S.R.

914. **SHRI D. D. DESAI:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether several deals for export of cotton garments to U.S.A. and U.S.S.R. have been made recently;

(b) if so, the main features thereof;

(c) whether West European Governments are putting quota restrictions in the import of Indian garments to their countries; and

(d) if so, the steps Government are taking to end these quota restrictions?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): (a) and (b). Contracts for export of garments are concluded by the trade with overseas importers. It is understood that the trade has concluded several contracts for export of garments to USA and USSR during recent months. The features of the deals vary from case to case.

(c) E.E.C., Sweden and Norway have imposed quota restrictions on import of certain varieties of garments from India.

(d) With Norway, India has concluded an agreement envisaging quota restriction on India's export of shirts and blouses. In the case of Sweden and E.E.C., certain restrictions have been imposed unilaterally without our consent. Government have been making efforts to end these restrictions and the discussions are in progress.

Airport at Ahmedabad

915. **SHRI D. D. DESAI:** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ahmedabad is to have an international airport;

(b) if so, the main features thereof; and

(c) whether this would be so constructed as to accommodate wide-bodied aircraft?