

Export of Fruits and Vegetables

7975. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the factors taken into account to decide the export of a commodity which is of common man's need;

(b) whether it is a fact that vegetables and fruits are being exported leading to hike in prices;

(c) whether Government have ever conducted a study for revision of the export list in the light of our market prices and export prices;

(d) if so, when and the findings thereof; and

(e) if not, whether Government propose to conduct such a study?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) and (b). The export of agricultural items which are used by the common man such as fresh fruits and vegetables are permitted only after assessing availability of exportable surplus. India's exports of fresh fruits and vegetables are less than one per cent of domestic production and do not, therefore, influence domestic prices.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) In view of the limited export of fresh fruits and vegetables, there is presently no proposal to conduct any such study for revision of the export list. The Export Policy, however, is periodically amended to cater to any changes in the domestic market regarding availability and prices.

Steps to Safeguard Interests of Mills and Powerlooms

7976. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have banned production of certain varieties of textile goods including dhoties, sarees and shirtings in the mills and powerlooms and has reserved the same to be produced by handlooms;

(b) whether at present handloom sector produces barely one their quantity of such items;

(c) if so, steps proposed to be taken to safeguard the interests of the mills and powerlooms and also increase the production of handlooms for which no arrangements exists at present; and

(d) the action being taken to ensure quality in production with the expansion of handlooms?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Twenty-two items of cotton, silk and wool origin have been reserved for exclusive production in the handloom sector. These include certain varieties of dhoties, sarees and shirtings with particular specifications.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) A Scheme for modernisation of the handloom industry is under implementation since 1980-81. This scheme is meant to increase the quality as well as productivity of the handloom sector. Besides, regular research is being carried on in the Weavers Service Centres and Indian Institutes of Handloom Technology with a view to improving the techniques of weaving, processing, design development etc.

Decline in Tea Export

7977. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state: