

(a) whether the sugar mills and distillers have developed serious differences arising from shortage of raw material for alcohol production as reported in 'The Economic Times' of 24 October, 1985;

(b) the year-wise export of molasses during the last five years and the reasons for export of said materials at very low prices;

(c) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research had developed processes using other raw materials such as tapioca and if so, whether there are being used in practice; and

(d) whether Government propose to go in for synthetic alcohol for industrial use ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) The Indian Sugar Mills Association has suggested partial decontrol of molasses and the All India Distillers' Association has represented against it.

(b) Exports of molasses, excluding small quantities to Nepal, during the last five financial years were :

year	Quantity exported (in Metric Tonnes)	Value (Rs. in lakhs)
1980-81	Nil	Nil
1981-82	-do-	-do-
1982-83	0.72 lakhs	219
1983-84	5.04 „	2679
1984-85	2.49 „	1236

(Spillover from previous year).

Exports were permitted as there was surplus availability of molasses. Exports were made, through STC at prevailing international market price and at a profit.

(c) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research at the Central Tuber Research Institute, Trivandrum has developed processes for using tapioca for the production of

alcohol. The process has, however, not yet gone into commercial use.

(d) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

Expansion of Salkia Salt Depot

4353. SHRI R. P. DAS : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal for further expansion of the existing Salkia Salt Depot to facilitate quick movement of salt in the Eastern Region;

(b) whether Government propose to open a new site having similar infrastructural facilities; and

(c) if so, when the work is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHR M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c). I Government of West Bengal had informed this Ministry that the Salkia Salt Golahs were not being fully utilised for storage of salt and in view of the need to develop an alternate wholesale trade centre to ease the pressure on the present wholesale market in Burra Bazar, these lands may be transferred to the State Government. The State Government agreed to make appropriate alternative arrangements for storage of salt in the State and to take care of the other incidental issues. This Ministry have, therefore, agreed to transfer these golahs to the State Government for being utilised for development of a wholesale trade centre.

S.T.D. Facility at Repalle in Guntur District of Andhra Pradesh

4354. SHRI C. SAMBU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to establish S.T.D. facility at Repalle in Guntur District of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the time likely to be taken to complete the construction of building and other requirements to establish S.T.D. facility at Repalle; and