

**Export of Cashewnuts to USA**

2526. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cashewnuts exported to United States of America have been rejected on account of high pesticide residues;

(b) if so, the loss suffered on this account; and

(c) the corrective steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (c). According to Cashew Export Promotion Council and Export Inspection Agency, Cochin, no case of rejection of cashew kernels by USFDA has come to their notice, though there have been cases where consignments have been detained to assess the level of pesticides residues. The Export Inspection Agency has taken the following corrective steps:-

- (1) To assess the magnitude of the problem and source of contamination of cashew kernels with pesticides, samples of cashew kernels from stages of production and from different processing centres were drawn and tested in EIA laboratory at Cochin.
- (2) At present, samples of cashew kernels are being tested for pesticide residues and certificates issued to this effect as per the requirement of the buyers in USA and other countries.
- (3) A technical consultant of EIA visits cashew processing units regularly and gives necessary advice to the

processors. EIA also conducts training programmes for the workers/technical personnel on the safe use of pesticides. A brochure has also been brought out on pesticides and their use in cashew factory with assistance from the CEPC and circulated to all processors.

- (4) Approved Fumigation Agencies have also been advised not to use of DDT/BHC or their formulations in cashew factories.
- (5) Circulars have been issued to all exporters on the illeffects of using DDT, BHC, etc.
- (6) An All India Seminar on Pesticide Residue in cashew kernels was organised in Quilon (Nov. 1991) in which more than 100 delegates of managerial level from different parts of the country participated.

**Illegal Import of Chemicals**

2527. DR. (SHRIMATI) PADMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence has detected large scale illegal import of chemicals through air consignments during 1991 at Madras and other Airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the corrective measures taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b). During September-November, 1991, the officers of the Madras Zonal Unit of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence have noticed 5 instances of import of chemicals through Madras Airport

where the description and/or value have been misdeclared resulting in alleged eva-

sion of Customs duty to the tune of Rs. 85.50 lakhs as per details given below:-

<i>S. No.</i>	<i>Declared Commodity</i>	<i>Alleged duty evasion (Rs. in lakhs)</i>
1.	Sodium Bromide	14.00
2.	Neomycin Sulphate	55.00
3.	Carbamezapine	8.00
4.	Phenylprine HCL	4.00
5.	Carbenezapine	4.50
<b>Total</b>		<b>85.50</b>

(c) The field formations have been alerted and directed to take all necessary steps to thwart such attempts in future.

#### **Newsprint Prices**

2528. SHRISYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the average CIF price in rupees of imported newsprint of various grades paid by the STC during 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91;

(b) whether any contract has been signed by the STC for the year 1991-92;

(c) if so, the CIF price agreed to;

(d) the successive changes in the wholesale price at which the imported newsprint was sold by the STC to the newspapers since April, 1988, date-wise; and

(e) whether any reduction in the wholesale price is expected during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The average CIF of imported newsprint paid by STC is given below:-

<i>Year</i>	<i>Standard newspring</i>		
	<i>Qty. in thousand MTs</i>	<i>CIF value in crores (Rs.)</i>	<i>Average CIF PMT (Rs.)</i>
1988-89	188	183.01	9735
1989-90	195	213.86	10967
1990-91	190	215.64	11350