

**Export of Opium**

1444. SHRI D. P. JADEJA;  
SHRI M. RAM GOPAL  
REDDY;  
SHRI AMAR'SINH V.  
RATHAWA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that opium export has declined during the last two years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to increase its export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA): (a) Yes, Sir. The exports of opium have declined from 978 tonnes in 1977-78 to 852 tonnes in 1978-79.

(b) The decline in exports is mainly on account of increased competition from Poppy Straw and its concentrate produced in some other countries.

(c) Government have given incentive rebate in export price of opium to the buyers in respect of additional quantities purchased by them.

**Requirements of Orissa for Oil, Coal, Soft Coke, Cement etc.**

1445. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government are aware of the requirements of Orissa of oil, coal, soft coke, cement and edible oils and the actual allocations made during the last one year are not sufficient; and

(b) if so, whether Government are also aware that the wheat supplied to the State during the above is of bad quality and unfit for human consumption?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) As per information received from the State Government of Orissa the actual allocations of kerosene, diesel, coal, soft coke and cement have been not sufficient to meet the requirements. As regards edible oil, the Central Government supplies only imported edible oils to State Governments for distribution through the fairprice shops. In the current year 1979-80, on a request received from the Government of Orissa, an allocation of 500 tonnes of refined rapeseed oil and 30 tonnes of RBD palm oil was made in favour of Orissa. Of this to-date the State Government has lifted only 20 tonnes of RBD Palm oil, while the despatches of rapeseed oil have been arranged.

(b) No such complaints have been received by the State or the Central Government. However, the State Government has informed that complaints about supply of bad quality of wheat to roller flour mills were received on some occasions and steps were taken with Food Corporation of India to replace the bad stocks and ensure supply of good quality stocks in future.

**Loans Advanced by Bank of India and IDB to Kohinoor Mills**

1446. SHRIMATI PRAMILA DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bank of India and Industrial Development Bank have advanced loans to the Kohinoor Mills, Bombay in addition to those given to this mill by the Central Bank of India;

(b) if so, the total amount of such loans and the details thereof;

(c) whether follow up action pursuant to the findings of the one man Inquiry Committee on advances and credit facilities to the Kohinoor Mills has since been completed; and

(d) if not, the reasons for the delay and the time by which such action is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA): (a) and (b). While Bank of India has not sanctioned any assistance to Kohinoor Mills, the all India term-lending institutions including Industrial Development Bank of India have sanctioned a loan of Rs. 4 crores for financing the Mills' modernisation-cum-rehabilitation programmes.

(c) The follow up actions have been completed.

(d) Does not arise.

#### Import of Foreign Clothes for Distribution to Poor

1447. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some cases have come to the notice of Government that costly foreign clothes particularly ready-made are being imported from foreign countries on the pretext of free distribution to the poor;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to stop such import and to bring to book the defaulting customs officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA): (a) and (b). It has been reported by the Collector of Customs, Madras, that some cases of abuse of the Customs duty exemption available in respect of clothing received as gifts from donors abroad for purposes of free distribution to the poor and needy, have come to notice. Appropriate action was taken under the relevant provisions of the law in such cases which involved, during 1978-79, foreign clothing worth about Rs. 12

lakhs, and during 1979-80 foreign clothing worth about Rs. 6 lakhs.

(c) The related notification has been suitably amended with a view to providing additional safeguards aimed at preventing abuse of the duty concession without standing in the way of bonafide gifts. For example, gifts supplied to individuals in India have been excluded from the purview of the exemption. Necessary guidelines for determining the eligibility of the purported gifts to the duty concession have been suitably spelt out in the related notification to include such factors as the activities and the bonafides of the importing organisation, the area of its operation, its financial resources, the status of the donor organisation, the sartorial habits of the people amongst whom the imported goods are to be distributed and the climatic conditions in the area where the goods are to be distributed.

No involvement of any Customs officer in the misuse of the duty free concession in these cases, has come to notice.

#### Popularity of Life Insurance in India

1448. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Life Insurance is an unknown concept to a vast majority of the earning population in India and over 75 per cent of those who make their own living are in the dark about life insurance and urbanites are less so than villagers.

(b) whether any study has been conducted by Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA): (a) to (c). In its Report entitled "Attitudes Towards Life Insurance Cover" published in December, 1979, the National