

Agro Exports

3570. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESHWARLU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Council of Applied Economic Research has conducted a study that there is great potential for agro exports;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations made by NCAER; and

(c) the action taken by the Government on them?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). National Council of Applied Economic Research has conducted a study on the export competitiveness of 17 selected agricultural commodities. The main conclusions of the study are that the following steps are necessary to increase our agro exports:--

- (i) abolition of all export controls and regulations like canalisation, export quotas and minimum export prices;
 - (ii) infrastructure developments in terms of bulk storage and handling facilities of rail heads and sea ports.
 - (iii) long term investments in research and extension for improvements in yield and quantity, eco friendly production of fruits and vegetables and environment friendly packaging material for processed items.
- (c) While the report has been received

only recently, the rationalisation export controls on agro-exports has been a major feature of the liberalisation of export trade in the last few years and is an on-going process. Similarly high priority has been given to improvement and development of infrastructural facilities required for export, in which private sector investment is also being encouraged. The Indian Council for Agricultural Research has undertaken programmes for improving the productivity and quality of agricultural produce. With the objective of facilitating exports of organic products, Government has constituted a Standing cum Accreditation Committee to evolve policies and procedures for accreditation of inspection and certification agencies.

Money Credit Scheme

3571. SQN. LDR. KAMAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have assessed the impact of Money Credit Scheme for excise duty on the production of minor oils used by soap industry;

(b) if so, the revenue sacrifice, during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the details of beneficiaries of the scheme and the amount of benefit derived by them during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Ministry of Finance has not made any specific as to assess the impact of the scheme on the growth of production of minor oils used by the soap industry.