

Market Survey by N.T.C.

610. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Textile Corporation has undertaken any market survey to find out the consumers' preferences ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Production plans of of National Textile Corporation take into account the orders received and likely market demand both in regard to cloth and yarn. Market trends are assessed through various media viz. feedback from the agents, merchants, dealers etc. and NTC retail outlets. In addition to using published data, NTC conducts market surveys on specific products/market segments. In the year 1985, a consumers survey on controlled cloth and a limited survey on industrial fabrics was conducted by NTC.

Plants for Viscose Yarn Production

611. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the viscose yarn or fibre capacity in the country is adequate ;

(b) whether any proposals putting up new plants for it is pending before Government ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the delay in setting up new plants ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir. The deficiency is covered by imports.

(b) and (c) There is at present no proposal for issue of fresh letters of intent for new units. Companies holding letters

of intent have to complete various steps required for setting up new plants. One company holding a letter of intent has applied for enhancement of capacity of the said letter of intent, for approval of foreign collaboration and for clearance for import of capital goods. Another company holding a letter of intent for a new plant has filed an application for approval of foreign collaboration.

Emergence of Israel as Nuclear power

612. SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that Israel is emerging as a nuclear power having manufactured the nuclear weaponry including atomic bombs; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) and (b) Government of India have seen recent reports giving fresh evidence of Israel having acquired nuclear weapons capability. This cannot but have a destabilising effect. Moreover, Government are opposed to all nuclear weapons. They are therefore, concerned about and condemn Israel's clandestine nuclear weapons programme.

Smuggling on Indo-Tibet Border

613. DR. G.S. RAJHANS :
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD :
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHTI :
DR. B.L. SHAILESH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to a news item captioned "Smuggling on Indo-Tibet border"

appearing in the Indian Express of 13 October, 1986;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the BSF jawans posted in the eastern border of Himachal Pradesh which adjoins Tibet have failed to detect the smuggling activities; and

(c) the steps Union Government propose to take to stop smuggling at Indo-Tibet border ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Smuggling on Indo-Tibet border" which appened in the Indian Express dated the 13th October, 1986.

(b) No, Sir. Reports received do not indicate prevalence of smuggling activities in the region on any significant scale.

(c) In order to check smuggling activities in the region, the Government, have entrusted certain functions of the officers of Customs under the Customs Act to the Officers of Indo Tibet Border Police. The trends in smuggling and seizures made in the region are kept under constant review for taking appropriate remedial measures in close co-ordination with the concerned Central and State Government agencies deployed in the region.

Commissioning of Nuclear Research Reactor of Bangladesh

614. SHRI ANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reports that Bangladesh has had its first nuclear research reactor commissioned on September 14, 1986; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. PATWAR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have noted that according to the Bangladesh authorities, the reactor is to be utilized in the fields of radio isotopes production for use in nuclear medicine and applied agricultural research.

Export of Processed Fruit and Vegetables

615. SHRI SHAMINDER SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of Indian processed fruit and vegetable exports in terms of world figures; and

(b) the reasons for poor performance in this area ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) The export of Indian processed fruits and vegetables constitute less than 1% in terms of world trade.

(b) There are a number of factors inhibiting the growth of exports. These interalia include the following :—

- (1) the level of productivity of Fruits and vegetables in India is low as compared to the productivity of the major exporting countries.
- (2) Suitable variety of fruits are not specifically grown for processing as the horticulture production is not organised specifically for export production.
- (3) The fruits and vegetables are processed mostly in the Small Scale Sector, which employ out-moded Technology of processing which is not cost-effective.
- (4) Packaging materials are costly and packagings are not suited to the requirements of the highly quality conscious consumers.
- (5) The processing Industry is dependent on exports. It does not have the support of the domestic market as the domestic market is limited, owing to high prices of the processed products.