

**Export of Garlic and Price behaviour thereof**

1994. SHRI MANIK REDDY;  
SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI :  
SHRI SOMNATH RATH :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the price of garlic has shot up from Rs. 6 to Rs. 60;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is acute shortage of garlic even for sowing as seed;

(d) whether import of unsuitable seeds may cause new plant diseases and also reduce production; and

(e) whether Government propose to review the policy with respect of export of such vegetables and fruits as are in short supply ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b). Government are aware that the price of garlic has significantly increased recently due to fall in production on account of drought conditions in the garlic growing area.

(c) Due to reduction in production of garlic the availability of garlic for seed purposes is adversely affected.

(d) Plant Quarantine regulations are followed for import of planting materials of agricultural/horticultural crops including garlic.

(e) Export of fruits and vegetables are being continuously monitored. Government will not encourage export of such fruits and vegetables which are in short supply in the country.

**Import of Mild Steel Billets**

1995. SHRI JAGANNATH PATT-

NAIK : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether mini-steel plants all over the country have been adversely affected by withdrawal of MODVAT scheme and by import of mild steel billets by actual users, canalised through Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation;

(b) whether as a result thereof few of mini-steel plants have already been closed while others were compelled to decrease their production; and

(c) if so, the scheme of Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) The MODVAT Scheme, as applicable to mini steel plants, has not been withdrawn. However, since the 'duty-paid' nature of indigenous scrap has not been established, the mini steel plants are not getting the benefit in view of their inability of produce documentary evidence of payment of excise duty on scrap. The industry has, therefore, represented for benefits of MODVAT without production of the document.

The import of billets is limited to the gap between demand and indigenous availability including availability from mini steel plants and has not affected the mini steel producers.

(b) and (c). No mini steel plant is reported to have closed down or decreased production because of non-availability of MODVAT relief or import of billets.

12.00 hrs.

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : Sir, I want to raise a question on the basis of the proceedings of the House on 2nd March.

MR. SPEAKER : I have got your notice.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : While Shri Amal Datta was speaking and